

## PO26 NEONATAL CONSIDERATIONS

### General Considerations:

- A. A neonate refers to a newly born child under the age of 30 days. While most neonates transition to post-natal life without difficulty, 10% will require medical assistance. Respiratory insufficiency is the most common complication observed in the newly born.
- B. Neonates born quickly may exhibit signs of stress such as apnea, grunting respirations, lethargy or poor tone
  1. Provide warmth, bulb suction mouth and then nose, and dry the infant
  2. If breathing spontaneously, HR >100 and infant is vigorous, continue to monitor
  3. If apneic, cyanotic, lethargic, or HR <100, provide 100% oxygen via BVM ventilations at a rate of 40-60 bpm
  4. If HR < 60, begin CPR at 3:1 compression: ventilation ratio.
- C. For neonates who do not respond to initial interventions as above:
  1. Obtain blood glucose level and if < 60, administer dextrose IV/IO (D10 4 mL/kg)
  2. Administer epinephrine IV for persistent HR < 60
  3. Consider hypovolemia and administer 10-20ml/kg NS over 5-10 minutes
- D. Neonates with congenital heart disease may not be detected prior to hospital discharge after delivery. Consider a cardiac cause of shock in the neonate who remains hypoxic or has persistent cyanosis despite 100% oxygen. These neonates may decompensate quickly and fluid administration should be used carefully (10ml/kg NS)
- E. Newborns are at high risk for hypothermia. Provide early warming measures, keep covered as much as possible (especially the head) and increase the temperature in the ambulance
- F. Acrocyanosis (cyanosis of only the hands and feet) is normal in newborns and does not require intervention
- G. Prolonged apnea without bradycardia or cyanosis may indicate respiratory depression caused by narcotics. However, naloxone should be avoided in infants of a known or suspected narcotic-addicted mother as this may induce a withdrawal reaction. Respiratory support alone is recommended
- H. Obtain pregnancy history, gestational age of the neonate, pregnancy complications, and any illicit drug use during pregnancy.