

Issues and Top Tips for HDU transfers

1. Non Invasive Ventilation – BIPAP / CPAP / PS

- a. High oxygen demand
 - i. Can the patient tolerate lying flat? i.e. CT scan?
 - ii. Do your oxygen calculations and then plan for extra
 - iii. Logistics of intra hospital transfers may mean planning to have oxygen for the trip to CT scan and then to get replenished for the trip back
 - iv. Battery capability of some NIV machines is less reliable so know your equipment!
- b. Logistically challenging requires additional equipment
 - i. Drip stand for some NIV circuits
 - ii. Extra trolley for machine
- c. What if the patient deteriorates?
 - i. BVM – where is it? Is it close to hand or still in the transfer bag?
 - ii. Have you calculated for enough oxygen for the BVM too?

2. Monitoring

- a. What monitoring is the patient on at the moment
- b. ICS Minimum standards for monitoring level 2/3 patients are
 - i. Continuous cardiac rhythm (ECG) monitoring
 - ii. Non-invasive blood pressure
 - iii. Oxygen saturation (SaO₂)
 - iv. Temperature
 - v. End tidal carbon dioxide (in ventilated patients)
- c. Equipment library vs own unit equipment (what are the issues?)

3. Defibrillator

- a. Do you take one or not? Discuss and assess the patients risk of VF / VT without a pulse?
- b. Is there a defibrillator available en route?
- c. Do you know where the cardiac arrest trolleys are located en route?
- d. What about going in a lift? Is there a defibrillator available?

4. Suction

- a. Portable suction is essential to maintain airway
- b. Are hand held suction units available in the transfer bag?

5. Transfer bag

- a. Whose bag is it? Drs?
- b. Who checks it? Nurses ?
- c. Will you use it? Is there anything in the bag that won't get used?
- d. What else could go in the bag?

6. Need to Book an ambulance

- a. Network Top tips when booking an ambulance (LAS) – see the list
- b. What about when using the local HDU ambulance provision?
 - i. What are your local arrangements?
 - ii. What is the equipment capability?
 - iii. Can the ambulance take bariatric patients?

7. Documentation

- a. Between hospitals (even if they are the same Trust) Network Inter hospital transfer form should be used
- b. Intra hospital – forms are available to record the patient intervention

8. Where to find information

- a. Network resources – www.londonccn.nhs.uk
- b. Network Aide memoire
- c. Back of the transfer form has lots of information and contacts
- d. ICS guidelines