

Emergency Tracheostomy in the Neonatal Unit

Background

This is a rare but potentially life-saving procedure.

In the event of a “Can’t Ventilate, can’t intubate” scenario carry out the following;

Actions

1) Call neonatal consultant to attend urgently

Neonatal consultant will advise whether to proceed with this protocol

- If already present consider support from a second neonatal consultant
- Provide oxygen, optimise ventilation as able
- Assign a team member to scribe events and timings

2) Contact the Paediatric ENT team immediately;

“Neonatal airway emergency, ENT consultant support requested”

Mon – Thur 09:00-17:00, Fri 09:00-13:00

- Phone ENT Office at **RHSC 536 0830 (Ext 20830)** and secretary can locate duty Paediatric ENT consultant
- If no answer bleep ENT SHO (**RHSC Page 9145**) and request they contact consultant

Out-of-hours (all other times)

- Ask for on-call **ENT Registrar via St John’s Hospital switchboard**
- Registrar will contact consultant

3) Bleep theatre co-ordinator RIE on **Page 2118**

- Request spare diathermy machine is taken urgently to neonatal unit treatment room for emergency tracheostomy

4) Move baby to treatment room in neonatal unit

5) Fetch “Emergency tracheostomy tray” and “Emergency tracheostomy equipment box” from NNU clean utility room

6) In preparation for ENT team consider;

- Securing IV/IA access
- Prepare intubation drugs
- Prepare morphine infusion
- Prepare vecuronium

7) Update parents