

# NICU-to-PICU Care Transfers in the US

---

Thank you for your interest in this survey. It is intended for PICU physicians.

You will be asked for specifics about the transfer of NICU patients to the PICU at your institution, including criteria for emergent and non-emergent transfer and the process used for non-emergent transfer.

---

Please review the attached document which provides additional information on this study, including details on informed consent, before continuing. By continuing with the survey, you are endorsing the declaration included in the attached document.

[Attachment: "Background and Informed Consent.docx"]

---

Email address:

\_\_\_\_\_

---

Are you a physician in the PICU who feels sufficiently knowledgeable about the NICU to PICU transfer process at your center to continue?

- Yes  
 No

---

Thank you for your interest in participating in this study.

In order to maximize the study's impact, we ask you to include the name and/or email address of a PICU physician at your center who you believe would be best equipped to answer questions related to NICU to PICU transfer criteria and protocols. We appreciate your help.

\_\_\_\_\_

---

Please click "End Survey" below to end the survey

- End Survey

**Demographics**

What is your role in your hospital's PICU?

- Attending physician
- Fellow
- Hospitalist
- Other

If other, please provide additional details:

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you the medical director of your PICU?

- Yes
- No

What is the name of your hospital?

\_\_\_\_\_

Hospital Location (City, State):

\_\_\_\_\_

Which category best describes your hospital?

- Academic/University-affiliated
- Teaching hospital/Non-university
- Community/Private

Does your hospital have a fellowship program in pediatric critical care medicine?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Does your hospital have a fellowship program in neonatology?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

How many patient beds are in your hospital's PICU?

\_\_\_\_\_

How many patient beds are in your hospital's NICU?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Clinical Practice Characteristics**

Many NICUs transfer patients to PICUs/CICUs for emergent criteria. At your center, which of the following are EMERGENT reasons for transfer out of the NICU?

SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

- Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation
- Continuous renal replacement therapy
- Cardiac surgery/recovery
- Conventional mechanical ventilation
- Advanced mechanical ventilation (eg., high-frequency oscillatory ventilation)
- Unsure
- Other

If your institution has other EMERGENT criteria to transfer patients out of the NICU, please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please estimate how many infants are EMERGENTLY transferred from the NICU to the PICU at your hospital annually:

\_\_\_\_\_

In the absence of these emergent criteria, when a patient is NON-EMERGENTLY transferred out of the NICU to the PICU, is this done on an ad hoc basis or are there set transfer criteria?

- Ad hoc
- Set transfer criteria
- Combination of both
- Other

If other, please provide additional detail:

\_\_\_\_\_

If your center has set criteria for NON-EMERGENT transfer, which patient characteristics are part of transfer criteria? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

- Postnatal age or corrected age
- Size (weight) of patient
- Specific medical diagnoses
- Need for specific medications (eg, certain sedatives)
- Other

If you answered "Specific medical diagnoses," "Need for specific medications," or "Other" to the previous question, please provide additional details:

\_\_\_\_\_

If you answered "Postnatal age or corrected age" and/or "Size (weight) of patient" to the previous question, please provide additional details:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please estimate how many infants are NON-EMERGENTLY transferred from the NICU to your PICU at your hospital annually:

\_\_\_\_\_

Once a patient is identified for NON-EMERGENT transfer from the NICU to the PICU, does your hospital use a standardized protocol (beyond frontline clinician handoff and bedside nurse handoff) to facilitate the transition?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

How often are ALL components of the standardized protocol for NON-EMERGENT NICU to PICU transfer completed?

- All the time
- Most of the time
- About half the time
- Some of the time
- Never or almost never

---

During the NON-EMERGENT transfer process of NICU graduates to the PICU, which of the following are included at your hospital?  
SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

- Bedside nursing handoff
- Charge nurse handoff
- Frontline clinician handoff
- Attending to Attending MD handoff
- Pre-transfer multidisciplinary care team meetings WITHOUT parents
- Pre-transfer multidisciplinary care team meetings WITH parents
- Post-transfer bedside "huddle"
- Post-transfer multidisciplinary care team meetings WITHOUT parents
- Post-transfer multidisciplinary care team meetings WITH parents
- Pre- and/or post-transfer checklists
- Other

---

If there are "other" components to NON-EMERGENT transfer, please provide more details:

---

---

If the transfer process includes pre-transfer multidisciplinary meetings WITHOUT parents, please select all parties invited to participate:

- NICU clinicians
- NICU nursing
- PICU clinicians
- PICU nursing
- Palliative care
- Other subspecialists involved in the patient's primary problem(s)
- Social work
- Case management
- Child life
- Other

---

Please describe who else is invited to pre-transfer meetings WITHOUT parents

---

---

If the transfer process includes pre-transfer multidisciplinary meetings WITH parents, please select all parties invited to participate:

- NICU clinicians
- NICU nursing
- PICU clinicians
- PICU nursing
- Palliative care
- Other subspecialists involved in the patient's primary problem(s)
- Social work
- Case management
- Child life
- Other

---

Please describe who else is invited to pre-transfer meetings WITH parents

---

---

If the transfer process includes post-transfer bedside "huddle," who attends these huddles?

- NICU clinicians
- NICU nursing
- PICU clinicians
- PICU nursing
- Palliative care
- Other subspecialists involved in the patient's primary problem(s)
- Patient's family
- Social work
- Case management
- Child life
- Other

---

Please describe who else is invited to post-transfer huddles

---

---

If the transfer process includes post-transfer multidisciplinary meetings WITHOUT parents, please select all members that are invited to participate in these meetings?

- NICU clinicians
- NICU nursing
- PICU clinicians
- PICU nursing
- Palliative care
- Other subspecialists involved in the patient's primary problem(s)
- Social work
- Case management
- Child life
- Other

---

Please describe who else is invited to post-transfer meetings WITHOUT parents

---

---

If the transfer process includes post-transfer multidisciplinary meetings WITH parents, please select all members that are invited to participate in these meetings?

- NICU clinicians
- NICU nursing
- PICU clinicians
- PICU nursing
- Palliative care
- Other subspecialists involved in the patient's primary problem(s)
- Social work
- Case management
- Child life
- Other

---

Please describe who else is invited to post-transfer meetings WITH parents

---

---

If the transfer includes a pre- or post-transfer checklist, please describe what it includes:

---

---

If you have it easily available, please upload a copy of your NICU to PICU transfer checklist

**Evaluation of Current Clinical Practices**

How satisfied are YOU with the NON-EMERGENT transfer of patients from the NICU to the PICU at your hospital?

- Very satisfied    Satisfied    Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied    Dissatisfied    Very dissatisfied

What are you MOST satisfied with regarding the transfer of NICU patients to the PICU at your institution?

\_\_\_\_\_

What are you LEAST satisfied with regarding the transfer of NICU patients to the PICU at your institution?

\_\_\_\_\_

Overall, how satisfied do you perceive PARENTS are with the NON-EMERGENT transfer of patients from the NICU to the PICU at your hospital?

- Very satisfied    Satisfied    Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied    Dissatisfied    Very dissatisfied

What do you perceive makes parents MOST satisfied in the transfer of NICU patients to the PICU at your institution?

\_\_\_\_\_

What do you parents makes parents LEAST satisfied in the transfer of NICU patients to the PICU at your institution?

\_\_\_\_\_

For the following statements, please indicate the level to which YOU agree or disagree

For PATIENT SAFETY, it is important to have set CLINICAL CRITERIA for the NON-EMERGENT transfer of NICU patients to the PICU

- Completely Disagree    Somewhat Disagree    Neutral    Somewhat Agree    Completely Agree

For PATIENT SAFETY, it is important to have a STANDARDIZED PROCESS (beyond frontline clinician handoff and bedside nursing handoff) for the NON-EMERGENT transfer of NICU patients to the PICU

- Completely Disagree    Somewhat Disagree    Neutral    Somewhat Agree    Completely Agree

For the PATIENT/FAMILY EXPERIENCE, it is important to have set CLINICAL CRITERIA for the NON-EMERGENT transfer of NICU patients to the PICU

- Completely Disagree    Somewhat Disagree    Neutral    Somewhat Agree    Completely Agree

For the PATIENT/FAMILY EXPERIENCE, it is important to have a STANDARDIZED PROCESS (beyond frontline clinician handoff and bedside nursing handoff) for the NON-EMERGENT transfer of NICU patients to the PICU

- Completely Disagree    Somewhat Disagree    Neutral    Somewhat Agree    Completely Agree

Please let us know if there is anything else you'd like to include about the transfer of NICU patients to the PICU at your center:

---

Would you be willing to be contacted for an interview about your institution's NICU to PICU transfer practices?

Yes  No