Purpose
To provide clear instructions for use of a Transport Incubator.

Policy Statement
Diagnostic assessment and treatment of infants may require transportation to another hospital or clinic. A transport incubator is used for the transport of sick and/or premature infants whose condition requires the use of a warmed environment. The nurse in charge will determine if an infant requires an incubator for transport as well as the most suitable RN to accompany the infant.

Applicability
All Covenant Health Neonatal Staff.

Equipment
Patient specific T-piece resuscitator from bedside
Transport bag
Stethoscope
**Procedure**

1. Bring the transport incubator to the infant’s bedside approximately ½ hour before departure time. Plug the incubator into a wall outlet. **RATIONALE**
   - Time is needed to pre-warm the incubator.
   - Warming the incubator while plugged into a wall outlet conserves the battery.

2. Cover the incubator with an insulated cover when on transport in cold weather to conserve battery power. **RATIONALE**
   - The incubator will use more power in cold weather as it loses heat to the outside temperature through the plexiglass.

3. **Equipment Check**
   - **a.** Check oxygen & air tanks. If the cylinders contain less than 500 PSI or less than full a new cylinder must be used for transport outside of the hospital. **RATIONALE**
     - Blended oxygen should be available for emergency use and/or requirements for oxygen therapy (i.e. nasal cannula).
     - Respiratory will calibrate analyzer and check tanks weekly.
   - **b.** Suction **RATIONALE**
     - Necessary equipment available for emergency.
   - **c.** Attach T-piece Resuscitator to high flow meter. **RATIONALE**
     - Available and ready for emergency use.
   - **d.** Check battery by pushing the battery button. A number (in percentage) will be displayed. **RATIONALE**
     - When fully charged the display will read 100. Plugging into an outlet (in hospital or ambulance) will allow both batteries (monitor and incubator) to remain charged.

4. Ensure that the airflow within the incubator is not obstructed by linen. **RATIONALE**
   - If air circulation is impeded, the incubator will take longer to warm and gas mixing will be affected.

5. Take transport bag. **RATIONALE**
   - Equipment necessary for transport is available.

**On-Return and Following Cleaning**

1. Clean transport incubator and monitor with appropriate cleaning solution. Discard any patient specific equipment. **RATIONALE**
   - Using the appropriate cleaning solution will ensure the equipment lasts longer.

2. Return cleaned transport incubator to designated spot and plug incubator cord into outlet. **RATIONALE**
   - To ensure battery is charged.

3. Ensure oxygen and air tanks are turned off. **RATIONALE**
   - Prevent leakage of oxygen/air when not in use.

4. Return transport bag, restocked if required. **RATIONALE**
   - Necessary equipment available for transport.
Related Documents
Interhospital Transfers of Neonatal Patients
Intrahospital Transfers of Neonatal Patients

Revisions
July, 2005

References
Adapted with permission from Stollery Children’s Policy and Procedure Manual:
http://www.intranet2.capitalhealth.ca/nicu/pages/policiesprocedures/policiesprocedures_new.htm


Signing

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