NIPE – No More Delays

Streamlining the newborn infant physical examination (NIPE) process on the neonatal unit.

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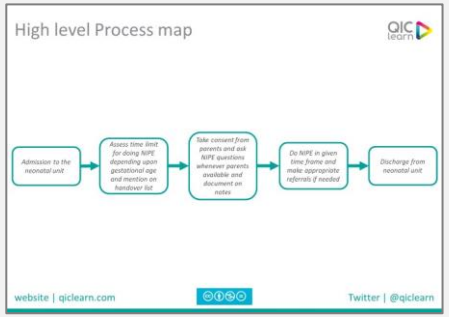
In Neonatal unit, delays in doing NIPE is very common which can lead to delay in diagnosing congenital abnormalities. This harms babies and over burdens our medical team

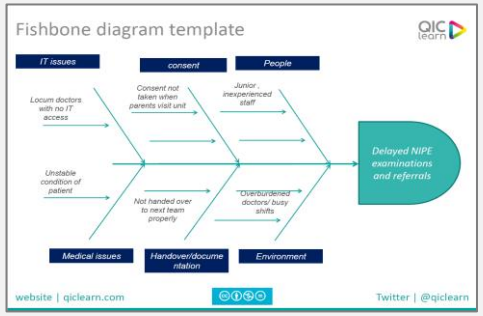
BACKGROUND AND EVIDENCE

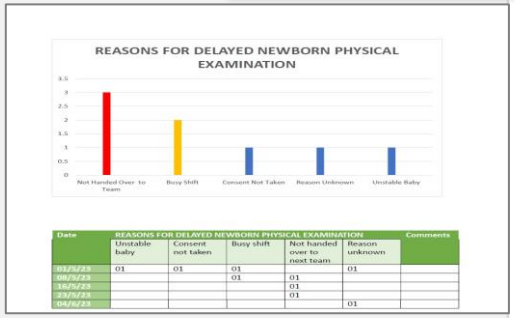
Newborn babies should have NIPE done within 72 hours of life if born at term or at 34 weeks of corrected gestation if born preterm.

While working in neonatal unit, I observed on many occasions, NIPE get delayed for many days breeching time limit. It can be harmful for babies if a critical congenital anomaly not picked on time and acted upon.

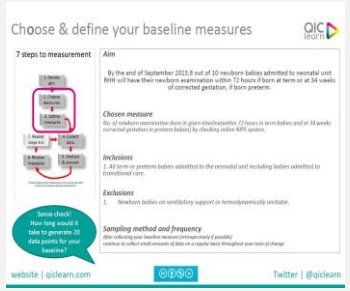
DIAGNOSTICS







Date	REASONS FOR DELAYED NEWBORN PHYSICAL EXAMINATION					Comments
	Unstable baby	Consent not taken	Busy shift	Not handed over to next team	Reason unknown	
01/5/23	01	01	01		01	
08/5/23			01	01		
16/5/23				01		
23/5/23				01		
04/6/23					01	



CHANGE IDEAS

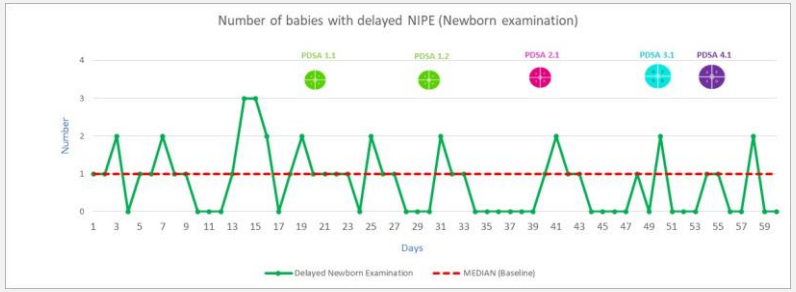
List all the ideas you **could** test…

1. Teaching sessions for new batches
2. Enter NIPE breech date in NIPE column on handover sheet to alert doctors
3. Reinforcement of handing over pending NIPE during handover
4. Daily checking handover sheets and conveying on call team
5. Reinforcing taking consent of NIPE at day time if busy shift so that night time can complete it when free
6. Email reminders

PDSAs (summary table)

PDSA Test #	PLAN	Do	STUDY	ACT
1.1	Adding the NIPE Breech time on handover sheet to ensure timely completion of task	To add NIPE breech time in NIPE section of handover to be mentioned at the time of patient admission.	Run chart	Assess improvement. plan to repeat PDSA cycle again with same plan
1.2	NIPE breech time mention on handover sheet	Same as previous cycle	Run Chart	Assess improvement
2.1	Discussion with junior staff members and arrange teaching sessions to do Newborn examination in timely manner	Discussion with junior team members, most of them were not aware of problem of delayed newborn examination as was not communicated properly	Team members agreed and were very supportive with ideas of change being made previously	Assess improvement
3.1	In safety huddle, to make sure on call team handover Pending NIPE to next team	With input from medical team and nursing staff, pending NIPE list handed over to next team	Run chart	Assess improvement
4.1	Effective communication to to reinforce previous changes via email/social media platforms	Message again conveyed to team via social media platform to reinforce their involvement	Run chart	Assess improvement

RUN CHART



REFLECTIONS & LEARNING

- I have learned how to approach any problem in a step-by-step way: identifying the problem; diagnosis (data collection and analysis); decide upon aim; test and implementation of changes; re-evaluation using PDSA
- How to use PDSA cycle s and construct a series of tests
- How to communicate with my hospital team and gather their ideas of change

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