

NEWBORN INFANT CARE

- A. Temperature Control: Whether infant is full term or premature, avoid “cold stress”.
1. Dry quickly.
 2. Keep the infant as warm as possible.
 3. Turn ambulance heater on high to reduce radiant heat loss.
 4. Cover head and body with dry blankets.
 5. Maintain axillary temperature at 97° F. Check temperature every 15 minutes.
- B. Airway and Breathing:
1. Position, supine with head in sniffing position, gently suction mouth, then nose with bulb syringe. If copious secretions are noted, place infant on his/her side with neck slightly extended, continue intermittent suctioning.
 2. Assess breathing rate (normal 30 - 60 per minute):
 - a. If adequate respirations, proceed to circulation.
 - b. If inadequate respirations, cyanosis, or gasping/grunting respirations, apply 100% oxygen via non-rebreather mask at 15 LPM held firmly on infant’s face. If no response/improvement after 5 - 10 seconds, begin positive pressure ventilations by bag valve mask with supplemental oxygen at rate of 40 - 60 per minute.
 - c. If prolonged ventilation by bag valve mask is needed, consider intubation.
- C. Circulation:
1. If heart rate within normal ranges (normal heart rate > 100 bpm at apical or umbilical sites), assess skin color, continue treatment, and transport as in “D” below.
 2. If heart rate is < 100 per minute, apply 100% oxygen by positive pressure ventilation with bag valve mask and ventilate at 40 - 60 per minute.
 3. Reassess after 30 seconds.

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4. If no improvement and heart rate remains 80 - 100 per minute, continue ventilation.

NOTE: Neonates with heart rates < 80 bpm are in eminent danger of cardiac arrest.

5. CPR should be started if the heart rate drops below 60 or persists between 60 and 80 beats per minute despite adequate ventilation with 100% oxygen ventilation by bag valve mask.
6. Treat per **Pediatric Dysrhythmias Protocol 4407** or **Pediatric Cardiac Arrest Protocol 4406** as required.
7. Notify **Medical Command**.

D. Transportation:

1. Ensure infant remains warm.
2. Maintain airway and oxygenation.
3. Transport.

E. APGAR Score

| THE APGAR SCORE | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Element | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Appearance (Skin color) | Body and extremities blue, pale | Body pink, extremities blue | Completely pink |
| Pulse rate | Absent | Below 100/minute | 100/minute or above |
| Grimace (Irritability) | No response | Grimace | Cough, sneeze, cry |
| Activity (Muscle tone) | Limp | Some flexion of extremities | Active motion |
| Respiratory effort | Absent | Slow and irregular | Strong cry |
| | | | TOTAL SCORE = |