

Referral Physician Guidelines for Therapeutic Hypothermia

- Is a blood gas available and is the infant $\geq$ 36 weeks?
- If a blood gas available, follow left side of decision making checklist.
- If no blood gas available, or pH = 7.01 to 7.15 or base deficit = 10 to 15.9, then follow right side of decision making checklist.

DECISION MAKING CHECKLIST

☐ **If a Blood Gas Available:**

Cord pH or 1st blood gas within 1 hour of age with pH $\leq$ 7.0

OR

Base deficit on either blood gas >16 mEq/L

☐ **If No Blood Gas Available:**

An acute perinatal event

AND one of the following:

1. Apgar score of ≤ 5 at 10 min.
2. Continued need for assisted ventilation for at least 10 min.

THEN:

- ☐ The presence of moderate to severe encephalopathy defined as seizures **OR** presence of one or more signs in 3 of 6 categories in the chart below (Modified Sarnat Score).

Category	Moderate Encephalopathy	Severe Encephalopathy
Level of Consciousness	☐ Lethargic	☐ Stupor/Coma
Spontaneous Activity	☐ Decreased Activity	☐ No Activity
Posture	☐ Distal Flexion, Full Extension	☐ Decerebrate
Tone	☐ Hypotonia	☐ Flaccid
Primitive Reflexes: Suck Moro	☐ Weak ☐ Incomplete	☐ Absent ☐ Absent
Autonomic System: Pupils Heart Rate Respirations	☐ Constricted ☐ Bradycardia ☐ Periodic Breathing	☐ Dilated, non-reactive ☐ Variable Heart Rate ☐ Apnea

(Continued...)

Make sure that the following exclusion criteria are not present.

Exclusion Criteria:

- ☐ Unable to initiate cooling by 6 hours of age
- ☐ Presence of known chromosomal anomalies
- ☐ Presence of major congenital anomalies
- ☐ Severe intrauterine growth restriction (<1800g)
- ☐ Infants in extremis for which no additional intensive therapy will be offered by Medical Care Provider

CALL NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT THIS TIME.

(Use this worksheet as a guide when discussing your patient's case with the neonatologist.)

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Additional Questions?

If you have additional questions regarding therapeutic hypothermia in general, we're glad to speak with you. During day time hours, call **(614)722-4529** and ask to speak with Dr. Edward Shepherd with questions regarding the therapeutic hypothermia protocol.

