



## GUIDELINE

# Pastoral Care Referral

|                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Scope (Staff):</b> | Nursing and Medical Staff    |
| <b>Scope (Area):</b>  | NICU KEMH, NICU PCH, NETS WA |

### Child Safe Organisation Statement of Commitment

CAHS commits to being a child safe organisation by applying the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. This is a commitment to a strong culture supported by robust policies and procedures to reduce the likelihood of harm to children and young people.

This document should be read in conjunction with this [disclaimer](#)

## Aim

To ensure that referral to Pastoral Care Services (PCS) will occur in appropriate and timely circumstances to ensure best practice for religious, spiritual and emotional care of patients and families within Neonatology.

## Risk

Families in times of crisis are at risk for increased emotional, spiritual and religious distress.

## Background

Spiritual pastoral, emotional and religious care are central components of holistic healthcare and support better health outcomes. To this end it is important that appropriate and timely referrals are made to PCS so that assessment and response by PCS staff can be facilitated.

## Referral

- KEMH PCS is on duty for NICU during workdays from 8 am to 4 pm.
- After hours and on weekends Perth Children's Hospital (PCH) PCS is on call.
- KEMH PCS will ensure timely clinical handovers of any patient of concern to PCH PCS.
- PCH PCS will ensure timely handovers to KEMH PCS of any Neonatal patient seen at KEMH (see PCS [guideline Out of Hours On-call Recall Service](#)).

## Principles

Clinical staff in the NICU at KEMH and PCH are to ensure referrals to PCS occur in the following circumstances:

- All babies admitted to NICU at a gestation of 25 weeks or under;
- All babies with early prediction of poor outcomes;
- All baby deaths.
- The patient or family / carer are identified to have spiritual or emotional distress or religious need.

All urgent referral to PCS will be attended to as soon as practicable and on the same day.

All non-urgent referrals to PCS will be attended to on the same day wherever possible.

The PCS Chaplain will assess the family's response to what is occurring including:

- Significant religious or spiritual orientation.
- Meanings that may be relevant to the circumstances.
- Their understanding of what is occurring and what responses or resources may be relevant.

Following each initial visit, the PCS Chaplain will document in the medical record and AHS, determine what follow-up is required and complete appropriate clinical handover form (KEMH or PCH if required).

### Related CAHS internal policies, procedures and guidelines

Neonatology

- [End of Life Care](#)


PCH

- [Pastoral Care Out of Hour On-Call Recall Service](#)

WNHS

- [Perinatal Loss](#)

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request.

|                       |  |                   |                            |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Document Owner:       | Neonatology  |                   |                            |
| Reviewer / Team:      | Neonatal Coordinating Group / KEMH Pastoral Care / PCH Pastoral Care   |                   |                            |
| Date First Issued:    | October 2017   | Last Reviewed:    | 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2021 |
| Amendment Dates:      |  | Next Review Date: | 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 |
| Approved by:          | Neonatal Coordinating Group  | Date:             | 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2021 |
| Endorsed by:          | Neonatal Coordinating Group  | Date:             |                            |
| Standards Applicable: | NSQHS Standards: <br>Child Safe Standards: 1,10 |                   |                            |

Printed or personally saved electronic copies of this document are considered uncontrolled



**Healthy kids, healthy communities**

Compassion Excellence Collaboration Accountability Equity Respect

Neonatology | Community Health | Mental Health | Perth Children's Hospital