

Management of Neonatal Pain and Agitation Framework Working Group - Terms of Reference

Purpose

This document outlines the terms of reference for a BAPM working group to develop a Framework for Practice on the Management of Neonatal Pain and Agitation.

Background

There is currently no standard practice for prevention, assessment and management of pain and agitation across neonatal intensive care units and the management continues to challenge the clinicians. In this setting, clinicians must establish safe and compassionate standardized practices that consider available efficacy data, long-term outcomes, and research gaps.

This framework provides a practical clinical approach to pain assessment and avoidance, procedural analgesia, postoperative analgesia, sedation during mechanical ventilation and therapeutic hypothermia, and the issues of tolerance and weaning.

This document will not cover Intraoperative anaesthesia, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, Sedation used for Intubation and LISA, or Symptom management plans end of life care.

Group Outputs

- A Framework for Practice

Group Members:

Chair/s: BAPM (Neelam Gupta) and NPPG (TBC)

- NICU Consultant - TBC
- LNU/SCU Consultant
- Trainee
- ANNP
- Psychologist

Stakeholder Groups Representation

- Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacy Group (NNPG) – TBC
- Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT) – TBC
- Association of Paediatric Chartered Physiotherapists (APCP) – TBC
- Neonatal Nurses Association (NNA) – TBC
- Pain Management
- Infant Pain Researcher – TBC

Meetings

It is envisaged that this work will take approximately 8 months and involve 6 virtual meetings. Following completion of a draft Framework for Practice agreed by the working group, there will be a period of consultation with BAPM membership and relevant stakeholders before the final document is published on the BAPM website. It is expected that the Chair of the working group and/or other members will participate in an educational webinar to publicise the final Framework for Practice.

Expected Timetable

Please note that BAPM working groups are run and managed by volunteers so dates may be changed if work or personal circumstances make this unavoidable.

Milestones	Date (all 2024)
Meeting 1 - Intros and scope (60 mins)	24 June
Meeting 2 - contents and responsibilities (90 mins)	1 July
Meeting 3 - Check in, trouble shooting (60-90 mins)	TBC
Meeting 4 - Review of first draft (60-90 mins)	TBC
Meeting 5 - Review of second draft (60-90 mins)	TBC
Meeting 6 - post consultation (60-90 mins)	TBC
Publication and webinar	TBC

Responsibility and Accountability

The group is responsible to the BAPM Executive Committee and accountable to the BAPM membership.