SECTION 6- REFERENCE

6.1 Abbreviations ........................................ pg. 1
6.2 Dictionary ............................................. pg. 3
6.3 Journal/Notes ....................................... pg. 11
SECTION 6

6.1 ABBREVIATIONS

A & B – Apnea and bradycardia, see Apnea of Prematurity
Algo – Hearing screens
Bili – Bilirubin
BP – Blood pressure
BPD – Bronchopulmonary dysplasia
Cc or ml – Metric measurement of liquid; 30cc (or ml) is 1 ounce; 5 cc is 1 teaspoon
CNS – Central nervous system (brain and spinal cord) or clinical nurse specialist
CPAP – Continuous positive airway pressure (air or oxygen delivered under a small amount of pressure)
CPR – Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CPT or Chest PT – Chest physiotherapy (vibrating or tapping on the chest)
ET – Endotracheal (refers to a tube placed through the mouth or nose to the wind pipe)
Gms or grams – Metric weight; 450 grams = 1 pound; 1 kilogram (Kg) = 100 grams
HMD – Hyaline membrane disease (another name for respiratory distress syndrome)
HI-FI – High frequency ventilator
ID – Infectious disease or identification
IMV – Intermittent mandatory ventilation, number of breaths per minute by the ventilator
IV – Intravenous (by vein)
IVH – Intraventricular hemorrhage
LP – Lumbar puncture (getting sample of spinal fluid using a needle)
NDST – Neurodevelopment screening test
NEC – Necrotizing enterocolitis
NG – Nasal gastric (tube going from nose to stomach)
NICU – Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
NPO – Nothing by mouth
O2 – Oxygen
OG – Oral gastric (tube going from mouth to stomach)
OT – Occupational therapist
PDA – Patent ductus arteriosus
PIC or PCVL – a tiny catheter or tube placed into a vein to give fluids or nutrition
PICC – tiny catheter inserted into vein to give fluids and nutrition
**PT** – Physical therapist

**RN** – Registered nurse

**ROP** – Retinopathy of prematurity

**RDS** – Respiratory Distress Syndrome

**RRT** – Registered respiratory therapist

**SIDS** – Sudden infant death syndrome

**SIMV** – Synchronized intermittent mandatory ventilation (machine breaths timed to baby’s)

**TPR** – Temperature, pulse and respiration

**TTNB** – Transient tachypnea of the newborn

**TPN or TNA** – Total parenteral nutrition (nutrition by vein)

**UAC** – Umbilical artery catheter, see equipment

**UTI** – Urinary tract (kidney or bladder) infection

**UVC** – Umbilical venous catheter, see equipment

**VS** – Vital signs (temperature, pulse, respiration, blood pressure)
SECTION 6

6.2 DICTIONARY

A
ambu bag: a piece of respiratory equipment. Used with a face mask and placed over baby’s nose and mouth, or attached to an endotracheal tube or trach tube; it is squeezed to give the baby oxygen and inflate the lungs.
anomaly: malformed body part
anoxia: lack of oxygen
apnea: stop breathing for 15 to 20 seconds
areola: dark area of the breast around the nipple
asphyxia: lack of oxygen and blood flow to the body
aspiration: breathing fluid (formula, stomach contents, meconium – baby’s first stool) or objects into the lung

B
bacteria: germs that make you sick; treated with antibiotics
bagging: squeezing the ambu bag covering the baby’s nose and mouth to give the baby oxygen and inflate his or her lungs. Also used with a breathing tube in the baby’s throat (endotracheal tube) or a trachotomy (special airway placed by surgeon).
bilirubin: breakdown product of red blood cells; too much in the blood causes jaundice, a yellow color of the skin
blood gas: a lab test to determine how much oxygen and carbon dioxide the baby has in his or her blood. The baby is stuck for the blood if he or she does not have a special IV (umbilical artery catheter [U AC]).
bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD): lung problem caused by oxygen, ventilators and prematurity. Some babies need oxygen after discharge from the hospital.
bradycardia: slow heart rate; usually less than 100 in a newborn or premature baby breech delivery: baby born bottom, feet or arm first

C
Candida albicans (monilia or yeast infection): infection that causes thrush and other “yeast” infections. Seen most often in baby’s mouth or diaper area.
carbon dioxide: gas breathed out when the baby exhales
cardiologist: doctor who specializes in the heart and circulation of blood
cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR): method to revive a person whose heartbeat and breathing have stopped
cerebrospinal fluid (CSF): fluid made and stored in the ventricles of the brain. Same as spinal fluid cyanosis: blue color of baby’s skin, fingernails or inside of mouth and tongue. Caused by a lack of oxygen.
chest physiotherapy (CPT): clapping on the baby’s chest with a hand or using a cup to loosen mucus in the lungs

circumcision: removal of the foreskin from the penis

colostomy: surgical opening made in the large intestine which is connected to the outside of the belly to permit elimination of stool (BM)

colostrum: thin yellow or clear breast milk that is present before the true breast milk comes in

complete blood count (CBC): blood test that looks at the types and number of cells in the blood. Used to see if the baby has anemia (low blood) or an infection.

computerized axial tomography (CAT scan or CT scan): computerized X-ray that takes special pictures of the baby’s brain

congenital abnormality: birth defect; malformation or abnormality present at birth

congestive heart failure (CHF): heart is not able to pump blood well because of malformed heart, illness or infection

corrected age: length of pregnancy (gestational age) plus the baby’s calendar age

cytomegalovirus (CMV): a virus the baby can get before he or she is born that causes birth defects and illness. The baby can also get it after birth and it can cause illness.

D

diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus (DPT): one of the baby shots or immunizations

diuretic: drug used to get rid of extra body water

doppler: special blood pressure machine

Down syndrome: chromosome abnormality (Trisomy 21) where the baby has varying physical problems and varying degrees of mental retardation

dyspnea: difficult breathing

E

echocardiogram (echo): picture of the heart taken using a similar process as an ultrasound of your stomach (uses sound waves instead of X-rays)
edema: swelling or puffiness
electrocardiogram (EKG): tracing of the electrical impulses of the heart

electroencephalogram (EEG): tracing of the electrical impulses of the brain

electrolytes: chemicals in the body that make it function well; can be checked by drawing blood for lab work emergency room (ER)

endotracheal tube (ET tube): small plastic tube placed in the nose or throat and connected to a ventilator or breathing machine. The tube is in the baby’s breathing passage (trachea) and delivers oxygen and pressure to the lungs.
exchange transfusion: removing most of the baby’s blood in small amounts and replacing it with fresh blood in small amounts. Most often used for a very high bilirubin level.
extra corporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO): process used to circulate a baby’s blood in a special machine while his or her lungs rest. It is a type of heart pump like used on adults having heart surgery. Babies may stay on the pump for more than a week, along with a breathing machine.

extubation: removal of the endotracheal (breathing) tube (ET tube)

**F**

fellow: a neonatal fellow is a pediatrician who is doing special training to become a neonatologist. A neonatologist is a doctor who cares for premature or critically ill babies.

fontanel: soft spot on the top of the baby’s head. Another soft spot is toward the back of the baby’s head.

fraternal twins: twins formed from two fertilized eggs. They do not look alike. There can be a boy and a girl or two girls or two boys.

full term: baby born between the 38th and 42nd week of pregnancy or gestation

**G**

gastrostomy: surgical hole on the tummy into the stomach. A tube is placed in the stomach to feed babies unable to eat by mouth.

gavage feeding: feeding by a tube placed in the baby’s nose or mouth into the stomach

gestation: length of time from first day of mother’s last menstrual period to the time of birth. Full-term is 40 weeks gestation.


**H**

heel stick: method to prick heel (finger stick is used also) to get blood for lab tests

hematocrit (HCT or “crit”): percent of red blood cells in the blood. Your baby may receive a transfusion based on the hemocrit.

hematologist: a doctor who specializes in blood problems

hernia:

- inguinal hernia: lump under the skin in the groin or scrotum caused by the intestines pushing through a weak place in the belly wall. A common preemie problem. May be fixed by surgery before the baby leaves the hospital. May occur at home after discharge. If so, notify the baby’s doctor.
- umbilical hernia: a pushing out of the navel or belly button caused by the intestines pushing through a weak place in the belly wall. Usually goes away by the age of 2. Fixed by surgery after 2-3 years of age if still present.

high-risk baby: baby at risk for developmental problems. Includes baby’s with intracranial hemorrhages, birth weight less than 1200 grams, long-term breathing machine (ventilators), less than 30 weeks gestation, small for gestational age babies, congenital infections, meningitis, birth defects, etc.
house officer: doctor who is finishing his or her training; a resident or fellow

house staff: doctors who are finishing their training; residents and fellows

hyaline membrane disease (HMD): also called respiratory distress syndrome (RDS); a breathing problem of premature babies caused by lack of a fluid called surfactant that keeps small air sacs in the lungs open

hydrocephalus: extra spinal fluid in the spaces of the brain due to a blockage in circulation or absorption. Head may become large.

hyperbilirubinemia: high bilirubin level (yellow jaundice). Common in newborns. Some babies are placed under a special light (bili light) or blanket that helps the body break down the bilirubin. The baby gets rid of the bilirubin in his or her stools (bowel movements).

hypoxia: lack of oxygen

I

identical twins: twins that occur from the division of a single fertilized egg. They are the same sex and look alike.

ileostomy: surgical opening made in belly and the small intestine is brought to the outside to allow elimination of stool

immunization: medicines given to protect the child against harmful childhood diseases. Given by mouth or by shot.

in utero: inside the womb or uterus

inborn: baby born in the same hospital with a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

indomethacin: medicine given to close the patent ductus arteriosus (vessel outside of the heart that can make the baby’s breathing and heart problems worse)

infant of a diabetic mother (IDM):

intracranial hemorrhage (ICH): bleeding in or around the brain

intravenous (IV): tube or needle placed in the vein to give fluids, medications or blood

intraventricular hemorrhage (IVH): bleeding into the ventricles in the brain

intubation: placing a small tube in the baby’s windpipe (trachea) to give oxygen and pressure by an ambu bag or breathing machine

isolette: an incubator (plastic box) babies are placed in to keep them warm while they grow and get well

J

jaundice: skin and whites of the eyes become yellow, caused by a high bilirubin

jet ventilator: special breathing machine that uses fast rates to breathe for babies who have special lung problems
K
kilogram: unit of weight in the metric system. 1kg = 2.2 pounds; 1kg = 1000 grams.

L
lactation: making milk in the breast
lactose: sugar in breast milk or formula
Lasix: medicine that helps get rid of extra body water. It is a diuretic.
let-down reflex: flow of milk into the nipple
licensed practical nurse (LPN)
licensed vocational nurse (LVN)
low birth weight infant (LBW): baby who weighs less than 5 pounds at birth. The baby can be premature or full-term.
lumbar puncture (LP; spinal tap): procedure where a hollow needle is inserted between the bones in the back to withdraw spinal fluid

M
meconium: baby’s first bowel movement, green-black color and sticky. Sometimes baby has a stool while in the uterus before birth.
meconium aspiration: breathing the meconium and amniotic fluid into the lungs
meningitis: infection of the lining of the brain and spinal cord
meningocele: birth defect where the tissue lining the brain and spinal cord come out through an opening in the skull or spinal column
milliliter (ml): unit of volume. 5ml = 1 teaspoon; 30ml = 1 ounce
monilia: yeast infection found in the baby’s mouth or diaper area
mucus: sticky material made in the nose and throat
murmur: sound made by blood flowing through the heart

N
nasogastric tube (NG tube): small plastic tube placed in the baby’s nose or mouth into the stomach used for feeding. Sometimes the tube is placed in the stomach to keep it empty when the baby is sick and not feeding.
navel: belly button; umbilicus
necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC): an infection of the intestines that sometimes results in part of the intestines dying. The dying part is removed by surgery.
neonatal nurse practitioner (NNP): a registered nurse (R.N.) who has special training in the care of critically ill babies. An NNP may give medical care, discharge teaching and other types of care under the supervision of a doctor. Performs special procedures.
neonatal period: the first 28 days of life
neonate: baby during the first month of life

neonatologist: baby doctor (pediatrician) who has specialized training in the care of premature babies or critically ill newborns

neurologist: a doctor who specialized in problems of the brain and nervous system Newborn or Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NBICU or NICU or NICN)
nippling: sucking on a bottle filled with formula or breast milk

O

occupational therapist (OT): person who treats problems involving the use of muscles, also may work with babies who have trouble eating

ophthalmologist: doctor who specializes in eye problems

orthopedist: doctor who specializes in bone problems

outborn: baby transported from another hospital for care after his or her birth

P

patent ductus arteriosus (PDA): small vessel outside of the heart that sometimes fails to close after birth. Sometimes it is closed with medicine or by surgery. Sometimes it causes the baby to have breathing and heart problems.

periodic breathing: a type of breathing pattern. The baby will stop breathing for a few seconds then breathes quickly.

persistent fetal circulation (PFC) or persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn (PPHN): at birth the circulation and breathing changes. In PPHN the baby’s blood flow does not change and continues to bypass the lungs. When this happens, the body and brain do not get enough oxygen.

phenobarbital: drug used to treat seizures

phototherapy: treatment of yellow jaundice or high bilirubin by placing the baby under bright light (bili light) or on a blanket (bili blanket)

physical therapist (PT): person who treats feeding problems and problems of the muscles

placenta abruptio: placenta pulls away from the wall of the uterus (womb). There is often bleeding. A Cesarean (C-section) delivery is often needed.

placenta previa: placenta is located in an abnormal place (over the opening of the womb). Bleeding during the pregnancy can occur. Cesarean (C-section) delivery is often needed.

pneumogram (sleep study): 12- or 24-hour recording of the baby’s breathing and heart rate patterns to see if there are unusual patterns during sleep or feeding

postpartum: time lasting 6 weeks after mom delivers a baby

postural drainage: method of positioning a baby so mucus can drain from the lungs

premature baby (pre-term baby): baby born before the end of the 37th week of pregnancy

premature rupture of the membranes (PROM): the bag of water (amniotic fluid) the baby floats in leaks or breaks before labor

Reference | 8
prenatal: before birth

primary nurse: nurse who is responsible for providing care and coordinating care of a specific baby for entire time baby is in the unit

pulse oximeter: machine that reads the oxygen saturation of blood. The pulse oximeter is taped to baby’s hand, finger, or toe.

registered nurse (R.N.):

resident: doctor in training after medical school

residual: formula still in the stomach before the next feeding

respirator: machine used to breath for the baby. Also called a ventilator.

respiratory distress syndrome (RDS): See hyaline membrane disease (HMD).

retina: the back of the eye

respiratory distress syndrome (RDS): See hyaline membrane disease (HMD).

retinopathy of prematurity (ROP): an eye disease in babies. Many things may cause it, including oxygen, ventilators or prematurity. The mild form may heal on its own, but severe ROP may lead to the retina becoming detached (loose) and blindness.

rubella: virus that causes German measles

seizure: abnormal electrical activity in the brain that causes unusual muscle twitches

shunt (VP): tube that drains spinal fluid from a ventricle in the brain to the belly

strabismus: eyes that cross or turn outward due to muscle weakness

subarachnoid hemorrhage: bleeding in the area around the outside of the brain

tachycardia: rapid heart rate (above 160 beats per minute in a newborn or premature baby)

tachypnea: rapid breathing

term baby: baby born between the 38th and 42nd week of pregnancy (gestation)

theophylline: drug used to stimulate the baby’s breathing

thrush: fungal (yeast) infection of the mouth. Baby has white patches on the tongue and insides of the mouth.

TORCH titers: test for viral infections toxoplasmosis, rubella, cytomegalovirus and herpes

trachea: windpipe or breathing tube

tracheotomy: surgical opening made through the skin and into the breathing tube (trachea) so air can get to the lungs when there is a blockage. Also done to babies requiring long-term ventilation management.
U
ultrasound: method of taking pictures inside the body using sound waves
umbilicus: belly button; navel
upper respiratory infection (URI): a cold; infection above the lungs
urinary tract infection (UTI): infection of the bladder

V
ventilator: machine used to breathe for the baby. Also call a respirator.
ventricle: chamber in the heart; also the name of a sack in the brain where spinal fluid is made and stored

W
wheeze: whistling, humming, raspy sound made during breathing

Y
yeast infection (Candida albicans, monilia, thrush): fungus that causes an infection. Common after antibiotic therapy. Seen most often in the mouth and diaper area. Treated with mycostatin oral suspension and mycostatin cream.