

Newborn Emergency Transport Service (NETS)

Who we are

The Newborn Emergency Transport Service (NETS) retrieves critically ill neonates from peripheral hospitals in Western Australia and transfers them to PCH or KEMH for tertiary level care. NETS operate within the whole area of Western Australia (WA) and is assisted by the St John Ambulance and the Royal Flying Doctor Service of WA.

What we do

NETS currently perform over 1100 primary emergency retrievals per year. The team consists of nurses and doctors trained in neonatal intensive care, who are able to stabilise sick neonates and transfer them safely to tertiary hospitals (KEMH/PCH) in Perth.

Senior Registrars working in NETS will have the opportunity to improve their understanding of the principles of Neonatology and gain practical experience in the following areas:

- Extreme prematurity
- Hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy
- Sepsis, jaundice, respiratory distress syndrome, pneumonia, meconium aspiration syndrome, pulmonary hypertension, patent ductus arteriosus, hypoglycaemia.
- Various modalities of neonatal ventilation like SIMV, SIPPV, volume guarantee ventilation, pressure support ventilation, high frequency oscillatory ventilation, high frequency jet ventilation (our unit is one of only 2 in Australia that offers jet ventilation.)
- Inhaled nitric oxide therapy for acute severe pulmonary hypertension
- Fluid therapy, parenteral as well as enteral nutrition
- Neonatal retrievals by road, rotary wing and fixed wing, including long range PC-24 jet.
- Management of neonates with surgical issues such as congenital diaphragmatic hernia, gastroschisis, bowel atresia, malrotation, congenital heart disease
- Developmental follow up of ex preterm and high- risk term infants
- Original and innovative research projects

What to expect

Expect the neonatal team in NETS to provide a supportive, balanced working and learning environment that enables them to achieve a successful and fulfilling career. We strive to provide a high quality, evidence-based learning environment for colleagues of all paths and at all levels of career through:

- Clinical exposure and experience
- Didactic teaching programs
- Simulation
- Continued professional development
- Departmental meetings including grand rounds and journal club
- Training in advanced modalities of ventilation for preterm infants
- Training in neonatal transports by road and air ambulance.
- Engagement in medical and nursing education.
- Attendance and participation in regular multi-disciplinary meetings.

This site is accredited by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians with 6 months likely to result in 25 retrievals required for the Advanced Neonatal Training Program. This site is also accredited for 12 months total training time (6 months core retrieval training and 6 months non-core).