

What to do when it's time to Kangaroo

Transfer techniques for the NICU patient

Preterm infants are exposed to stressful experiences in the NICU that can result in lasting adverse developmental outcomes. Kangaroo Mother Care is an extensively researched developmental care practice that can improve the outcomes of these infants. One of the obstacles to providing Kangaroo Mother Care for the preterm infant is the transfer process. The transfer process can negatively impact the infant's condition, increase infant stress and can potentially shorten the duration of Kangaroo Mother Care. To provide the neuroprotective benefits of Kangaroo Mother Care, the infant must be handled gently, safely and in a consistent manner. Many NICU staff do not feel comfortable with transferring the fragile infant from incubator to Kangaroo Mother Care and thus avoid it. Because very little information/education is available on transfer techniques, especially with ventilated newborns, we will present a video demonstrating safe transfer of ventilated infants into and out of Kangaroo Mother Care using a mannequin and several actual patients and their mothers and fathers who want to provide Kangaroo Mother Care. We will show the video and present observational data of the video's effects on nurse and family use of the procedure and the practice of Kangaroo Mother Care by mothers and by fathers.

The creation of the video came from many hours learning what worked and what didn't work in transferring fragile infants into Kangaroo Mother Care. The video presents an easy step-by-step procedure that can be adapted to each NICU's environment and equipment.

We hope this video can be used as a tool for any NICU wanting to increase their amount of Kangaroo Care provided in their unit by improving their transfer process.

To view this video, please click on the link provided: <https://youtu.be/jyEKhTEpPSQ>