



NCCU CLINICAL GUIDELINES  
SECTION: 4

**THERMOREGULATION**

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Infants <30 weeks or less than 1500gms  
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Neonatology Clinical Guidelines  
King Edward Memorial/Princess Margaret Hospitals  
Perth Western Australia

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**INFANTS LESS THAN 30 WEEKS OR LESS THAN 1500GMS**

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**KEY POINTS**

- Transepidermal water loss (TEWL) is the insensible loss from the skin.
- There is an exponential relationship between TEWL and gestational age.
- When ambient relative humidity is reduced from 60% to 20%, water loss through evaporation from the skin is increased by 100% in infants born less than 30 weeks gestation.
- This emphasises the importance of keeping air around the infant well humidified.
- Utilising a level of humidity relative to the infants weight, gestational age and corrected age will reduce a requirement for increased fluid in order to maintain adequate fluid balance.