The skills required in the NICU setting are complex and require an in depth understanding of relevant knowledge and practice to perform the skill. The majority of commonly used skills in the neonatal setting are taught during orientation. However certain skills can only be performed by nursing staff who are neonatal trained or who successfully complete a learning/competency package.

The following skills can only be performed by Clinical Nurses, Neonatal Trained Nurses and Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing Course participants (under supervision).

- Chest drain removal.
- Long line (PICC) removal and long line (PICC) dressing change.
- Insertion of IDC.
- Surfactant administration: ventilation control.
- ETT intubation or ETT restrap.
- Emergency needle aspiration.
- Code Attendance.
- NETS WA retrievals.
- Checking NETS cot.
- IV insertion.
- Exchange transfusions - assistant.

Registered Nurses must successfully complete a learning/competency package to perform the following skills.

- Venepuncture.
- Umbilical venous and arterial line removal.
- Care of an infant receiving HFJV/HFO/Nitric.
- Tracheostomy care.
- Level two medications (HDU/satellite nursery at KEMH, Level 2 nursery at PCH 3B).

Enrolled Nurses must successfully complete a learning/competency package before performing the following skills.

- Level two admissions (ENs to arrange admission experience with CDN).
- Venepuncture (after six months in the unit).
- Back transfers +/- O₂.
- Administering IV medications/care of infants requiring IVT.

All of the above packages must be completed if an Enrolled Nurse is applying for advanced status.

## Resources

| National Competency Standards for the Registered Nurses |
| National Standards for Practice for the Enrolled Nurses |

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