



CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE


Neonatal Examination QRG

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Disclaimer](#)

This **Quick Reference Guide** must be **used in conjunction** with its respective [Clinical Guideline, Obstetrics & Midwifery: Neonatal Care: Neonatal Examination](#). It pertains to all neonates that do not require immediate admission to Special Care Nursery.

<p style="text-align: center;">1. PREPARATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parental Consent • History • Environment • Neonatal identification- correct x2 • Neonatal temperature, respirations, heart rate and Oxygen Saturation
<p style="text-align: center;">2. GENERAL OVERVIEW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity • Skin colour • Obvious abnormalities • Behaviour - crying sounds • Gestational age
<p style="text-align: center;">3. SKIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colour • Rashes • Nevi • Skin integrity
<p style="text-align: center;">4. HEAD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shape and symmetry • Fontanelles and sutures • Head circumference • Eyes, ears, nose, mouth, philtrum, neck, chin • Hair • Bruising / abrasions
<p style="text-align: center;">5. CHEST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement, recession, shape • Heart rate, rhythm and sounds • Colour • Respiratory rate • Signs of respiratory distress • Nipples and breast tissue

<p style="text-align: center;">6. ABDOMEN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shape, colour and size • Umbilicus • Umbilical clamp secure • Number of cord vessels • Presence of obvious masses • Bowels sounds
<p style="text-align: center;">7. GENITALIA / ANUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passage of urine <p>Males</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penis, foreskin, testes • Urethral meatus <p>Female</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaginal and urethral orifice • Vaginal discharge <p>Anus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anal patency- contraction on palpation • Passage of meconium
<p style="text-align: center;">8. MUSCULOSKELETAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arms, legs, hands, feet, digits • Shape, posture, length, deformities, talipes • Neck and Spine- dimples, malformations • Hips- dislocated or unstable • Clavicle- tenderness or fracture
<p style="text-align: center;">9. NEUROLOGICAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test neurological reflexes (<i>Moro, grasp, rooting, suck, stepping, traction response</i>) • Muscle tone, posture, movements
<p style="text-align: center;">10. COMPLETION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record weight, length and head circumference • Document findings on MR 410 & MR 425.10 • Offer skin to skin contact • Advise parents of the findings • Notify paediatrician if early review required

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