

Worcester Neonatal Unit Skin Assessment Tool

This tool reflects the skin care guidelines for neonates			
Category	Score 0	Score 1	Score 2
Corrected gestational age	37wks and above	32wks – 36 + 6wks	Below 31+ 6wks
Weight	More than 2kg	Between 1-2kg	Below 1kg
Age	Over 14 days	Between 7-14 days	Less than 7 days
Temperature Control	Normal	Unstable during cares/procedures	Generally poor control/Cooling therapy
Mobility	Normal	Reduced	Immobile/No movement/sedated
Nutritional status	Normal fluids for age	Restricted for age of baby	Severely restricted for age of baby
Visual examination of skin	Normal	Damage/Oedema in localised areas	Generalised damage/oedema
Level of care	Special	High Dependency	Intensive
Add up the scores plus add on 2 for each of the following which are present:			
Intravenous Infusion/CVP	Arterial line in situ	Site of extravasations	Wound
Apparent birth trauma	Nappy rash	Electrolyte imbalance	CPAP/High Flow/nasal prongs
Cord clamp in situ	Phototherapy	Ostomy	Inotropes
Steroids	Heart condition	Oxygen	CRT > 3 seconds
Final score:			
0-8	Low risk of skin complications Recommended action: daily assessment		
9-16	Moderate risk of skin complications Recommended action: 6 hourly repositioning		
17-24	High risk of skin complications Recommended action: 4-6 hourly assessment/repositioning		
Above 24	Neonate is at extreme risk of developing skin complications Recommended action: 2-4 hourly assessment/repositioning		

- Assessment should be carried out on admission or up to 6 hours after (NICE, 2014)
- Assessment should be carried out daily unless total score instructs otherwise (McGurk et al., 2004)
- Familiarise yourself with the category indicators. Carry out a visual inspection of the skin and identify a score for each category.
- All total scores should be documented on intensive care chart and care plan along with care interventions and noticeable skin injury. If skin injury is apparent use tissue viability chart to monitor progress and indicate location of damage on wound location chart.
- Use in conjunction with pain assessment tool.
- Refer to clinical guidelines on skin care.

