### Special Considerations

**For infants > 48 hours old AND born at ≥ 37 weeks gestation with a birthweight ≥ 2500 grams**

- If there are no identified feeding risk factors, an individualized feeding advancement plan may be implemented (e.g. start 5-10 mL q3h and increase 5-8 mL q 3 h OR ad lib feeds +/- a minimum TFI)

**Small for gestational age (SGA) infants**

- Use weight to guide feeding
- Duration of trophic feeds may be extended
- The feeding protocol may require further adjustments to advance feeds more slowly (especially for SGA infants born < 29 weeks gestation)

**High Risk Infants: significant congenital heart disease, significant PDA, intestinal ischemia concerns (i.e. NEC), polycythemia, exchange transfusion**

- Consider amending feeding guideline (i.e. use 1-2 weight categories below weight for feeding or amend feeding category)

**Infants receiving indomethacin or ibuprofen for PDA management**

- If feeding, consider providing feeds at a feed volume of ~ 15 mL/kg/day
  (provide as q2h feeds – for example, 15 mL/kg/day in 0.8 kg infant = 15 ml = 1 mL q2h)
- Feeding plan will be at the discretion of the staff neonatologist

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### Initiation and Advancement of Enteral Feeding in the NICU

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Feed Volumes</th>
<th>Day of Feeding</th>
<th>Increase Feeds</th>
<th>Trophic Feed Volume</th>
<th>Volume of Increase</th>
<th>Days to Full Feeds (TFI 150 mL/kg/day)</th>
<th>Feeding Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500 - 749 g</td>
<td>1 ml q 4 h x 72 hours</td>
<td>Day 1 - 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>8 - 12 mL/kg/day</td>
<td>500 g = 10 days</td>
<td>749 g = 13 days</td>
<td>Mother’s own milk is the preferred source of nutrition for almost all infants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>750 - 999 g</td>
<td>1 ml q 2 h x 96 hours</td>
<td>Day 1 - 4</td>
<td>Day 5</td>
<td>1 mL q 24 h</td>
<td>12 - 16 mL/kg/day</td>
<td>750 g = 10 days</td>
<td>999 g = 12 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Pasteurized donor human milk for eligible infants:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000 - 1249 g</td>
<td>1 ml q 2 h x 72 hours</td>
<td>Day 1 - 3</td>
<td>Day 4</td>
<td>1 mL q 12 h</td>
<td>10 - 12 mL/kg/day</td>
<td>1000 g = 9 days</td>
<td>1249 g = 10 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1250 - 1499 g</td>
<td>2 ml q 2 h x 24 hours</td>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>Day 2</td>
<td>1 mL q 8 h</td>
<td>16 - 19 mL/kg/day</td>
<td>1250 g = 6 day</td>
<td>1499 g = 7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500 - 1749 g</td>
<td>3 ml q 3 h x 24 hours</td>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>Day 2</td>
<td>1.5 mL q 8 h</td>
<td>24 - 28 mL/kg/day</td>
<td>1500 g = 6 days</td>
<td>1749 g = 6 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1750 - 1999 g</td>
<td>4 ml q 3 h x 24 hours</td>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>Day 2</td>
<td>0.5 mL q 8 h</td>
<td>27 - 32 mL/kg/day</td>
<td>1750 g = 5 days</td>
<td>1999 g = 6 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 - 2499 g</td>
<td>5 ml q 3 h x 24 hours</td>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>Day 2</td>
<td>1 mL q 3 h</td>
<td>32 - 36 mL/kg/day</td>
<td>2000 g = 4 days</td>
<td>2499 g = 4 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 2500 g</td>
<td>6 mL q 3 h x 24 hours</td>
<td>Day 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 mL q 3 h</td>
<td>~ 77 mL/kg/day</td>
<td>2500 g = 3 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Principles

- Initiate feeds within the first 24 hours with mother’s own milk unless contraindicated.
- Facilitate maternal milk expression within six hours after birth using hand or pump (ideally with a double electric pump).
- Partial feeds may be given as mother’s own milk becomes available.
- Consider the use of donor human milk for eligible infant’s if mother’s own milk is not available.

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Sept 14, 2018
References