

Delivery room management for infants born < 29 weeks gestation: general guidelines

These recommendations are in addition to the steps of the Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP)

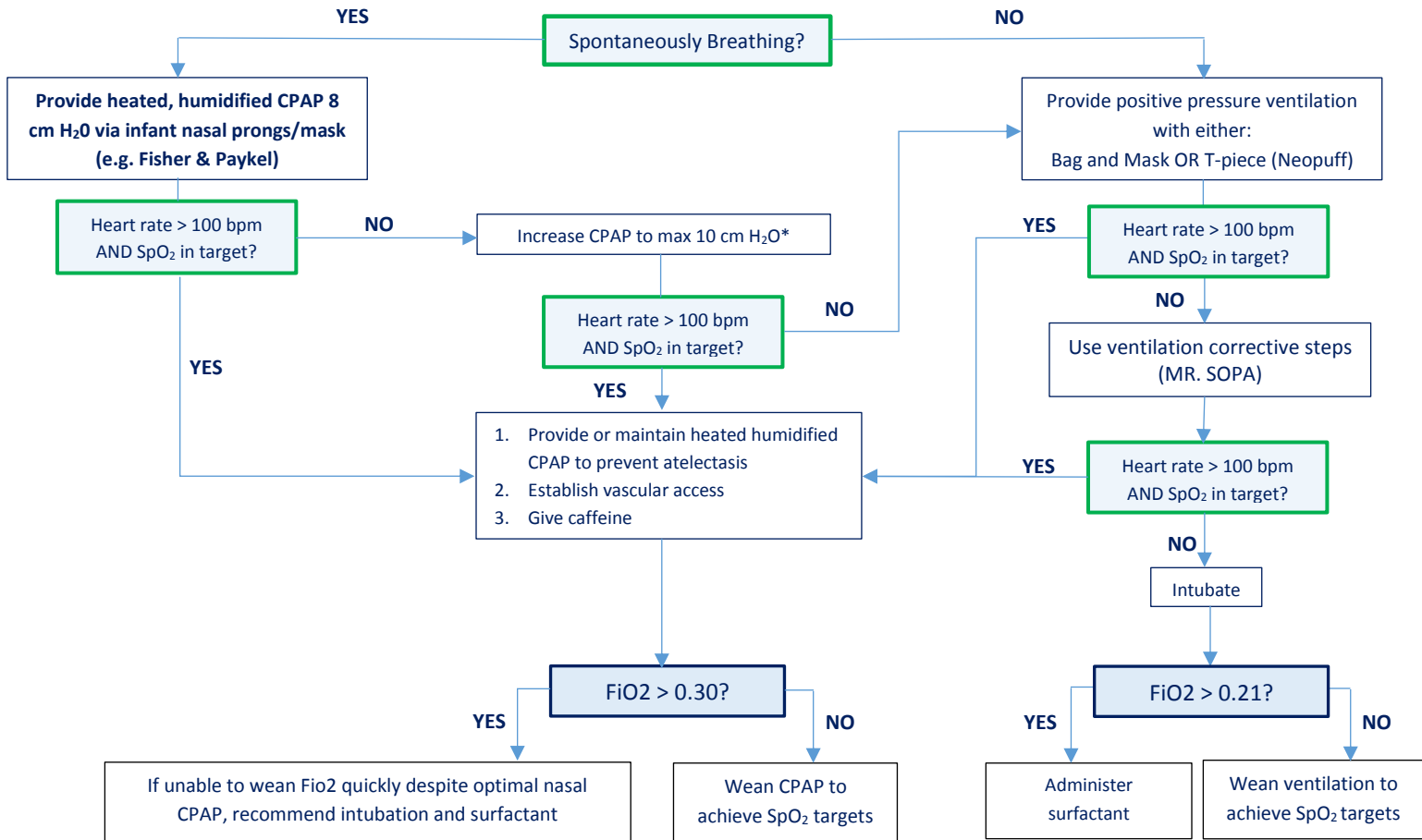
- Provide CPAP for spontaneously breathing preterm infants. Provide gentle positive pressure ventilation (PPV) for apnea or bradycardia
- Reserve intubation for babies who have not responded to optimized CPAP
- If intubation and FiO₂ > 0.21 required for stabilization, surfactant should be given (early selective surfactant)

Delivery room management for infant born less than 24 weeks gestation

1. Initially provide CPAP or positive pressure ventilation as required
2. Establish vascular access if infant stable
3. Intubate. Consider short-acting opiate, muscle relaxant and atropine for intubation
4. Administer natural surfactant
5. Maintain mechanical ventilation using lung protective strategies
6. For brain protection continue invasive ventilation for 72 hours unless persistent hypocapnia

- Intubation and surfactant is recommended as local data demonstrates that almost all infants born < 24 weeks gestation require intubation.
- Occasionally CPAP can be considered for vigorous infants < 24 weeks. Frequent monitoring is required with a low threshold for intubation and surfactant administration.

Delivery room management for infants born 24 weeks gestation (≥ 24 weeks) to < 30 weeks



Ventilation Corrective Steps ("MR. SOPA")		
M	Mask adjustment	Reapply the mask. Consider 2 hand technique.
R	Reposition airway	Place head neutral or slightly extended
Try PPV and reassess chest movement		
S	Suction mouth and nose	Use a bulb syringe or suction catheter
O	Open mouth	Open the mouth and lift the jaw forward
Try PPV and reassess chest movement		
P	Pressure increase	Increase pressure in 5 to 10 cm H ₂ O increments. Max 30 cm H ₂ O
A	Alternate airway	Place an endotracheal tube

Pre-ductal SpO ₂ Target	
1 min	60% - 65%
2 min	65% - 70%
3 min	70% - 75%
4 min	75% - 80%
5 min	80% - 85%
10 min	85% - 95%

*perinatal centres may use higher CPAP levels