

February 23, 2011

Dear Physicians and medical care providers:

The Florida Neonatal Neurologic Network (FN³) would like you to join our effort in expanding hypothermia for neonatal brain injury throughout the state of Florida. This treatment is indicated for infants showing signs of Hypoxic-Ischemic Encephalopathy (HIE) within 6 hours of life.

The use of hypothermia can make a significant difference in the lives of babies with HIE. Among every 1,000 full-term neonates, 2 to 4 babies are found to have some degree of HIE. Approximately 20-50% of neonates with HIE will die within the newborn period, and 25% of those who survive will develop a permanent neurologic handicap.

This treatment utilizes cooling blankets and/or cooling caps to induce the neonate into a therapeutic state of hypothermia between 32-35°C. Clinical studies have shown whole body cooling of infants with moderate to severe HIE will reduce the risk of death or disability and will be effective for 1 in 8 babies treated.

We have provided a poster (**FREEZE WARNING**) that lists the symptoms and steps to take should the neonate at your center appear to be a candidate for treatment. If your institution does not offer hypothermia therapy, please contact the nearest level III NICU and keep in mind that cooling **MUST** be initiated within the first **6 hours** of life. We encourage you to share this poster with your staff and to place it in a conspicuous location as to expedite diagnosis, treatment and transport for infants with HIE.

If you would like to learn more about hypothermia therapy, please visit the Florida Neonatal Neurologic Network at <http://hopefn3.org/> or by contacting Dr. Michael Weiss at weissmd@peds.ufl.edu. Stay up to date with news and updates by FN3 by becoming a fan on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/people/Florida-Neonatal/100001567405009>.

Respectfully,

The Florida Neonatal Neurologic Network

*Founded in 2009, the **Florida Neonatal Neurologic Network** is a network of physicians and medical providers throughout North Central Florida. NICUs at Tampa General Hospital, All Children's Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital, Florida Hospital, Winnie Palmer Hospital, Baptist Health Jacksonville, Shands at Jacksonville and Shands at the University of Florida, Sacred Heart Hospital, and Tallahassee Memorial Hospital are all participating centers. The mission of FN³ is to spread state of the art care for newborn babies with brain injuries throughout the state of Florida and to improve long-term outcomes.*