Policy of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Neonatal Care

A Compendium of AAP Clinical Practice Guidelines and Policies

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS PUBLISHING STAFF

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Linda Smessaert, MSIMC
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Mary Louise Carr
Marketing Manager, Clinical Publications

Published by the American Academy of Pediatrics
345 Park Blvd
Itasca, IL 60143
Telephone: 630/626-6000
Facsimile: 847/434-8000
www.aap.org

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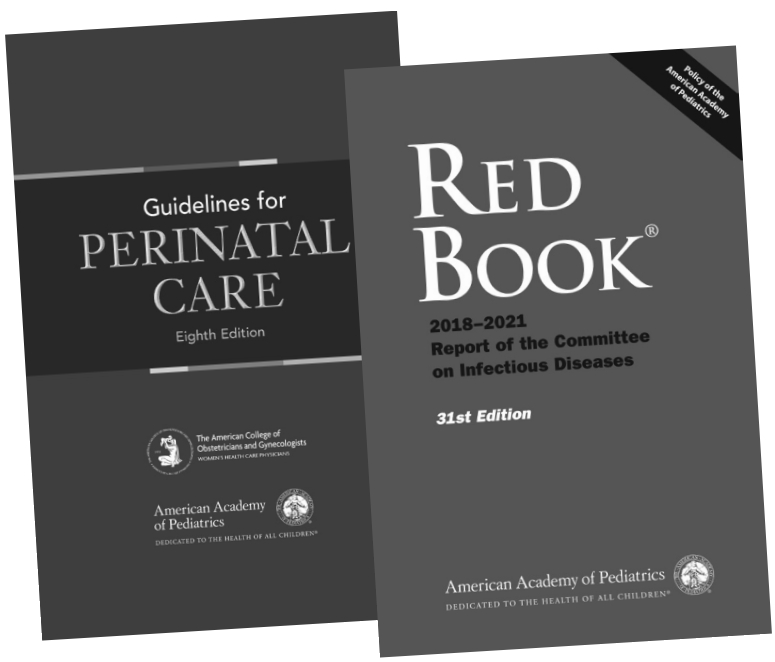
INTRODUCTION

Clinical practice guidelines have long provided physicians with evidence-based decision-making tools for managing common pediatric conditions. Policy statements issued by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) are developed to provide physicians with a quick reference guide to the AAP position on child health care issues. We have combined these 2 authoritative resources into 1 comprehensive manual to provide easy access to important clinical and policy information.

This manual contains an AAP clinical practice guideline, as well as AAP policy statements, clinical reports, and technical reports related to neonatal care.

Additional information about AAP policy can be found in a variety of professional publications such as *Guidelines for Perinatal Care,* 8th Edition; *Red Book®,* 31st Edition; and *Red Book® Online* (http://redbook.solutions.aap.org).



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and its member pediatricians dedicate their efforts and resources to the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. The AAP has approximately 67,000 members in the United States, Canada, and Latin America. Members include pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists.

Core Values. ***We believe***

- In the inherent worth of all children; they are our most enduring and vulnerable legacy.
- Children deserve optimal health and the highest quality health care.
- Pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists are the best qualified to provide child health care.
- Multidisciplinary teams, including patients and families, are integral to delivering the highest quality health care.
- The AAP is the organization to advance child health and well-being and the profession of pediatrics.

Vision. Children have optimal health and well-being and are valued by society. American Academy of Pediatrics members practice the highest quality health care and experience professional satisfaction and personal well-being.

Mission. The mission of the AAP is to attain optimal, physical, mental, and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. To accomplish this mission, the AAP shall support the professional needs of its members.

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FOREWORD

The core mission of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is "to attain optimal physical, mental, and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents, and young adults." In order to reach these goals, the AAP advocates for the needs of children and supports the professional needs of its members who provide care to those children. With a commitment to evidence-based medicine, the AAP has established leadership entities—committee, councils, and sections—that are charged with providing policy, educational programming, and resources for AAP members.

The AAP Committee on Fetus and Newborn (COFN) is one of 26 AAP committees. Its members include academic newborn specialists from throughout the United States, as well as liaisons from the AAP Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Association of Neonatal Nurses, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institutes of Child Health and Development, AAP Neonatal Resuscitation Program, Canadian Paediatric Society Fetus and Newborn Committee, and AAP Section on Surgery. COFN also works closely with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and includes a representative from the ACOG Committee on Obstetric Practice. Most recently, COFN has added a representative from the Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Section Training and Early Career Neonatologists Council, as an educational and training opportunity for early career academic neonatologists. COFN is supported by AAP staff, including the Director of Hospital and Surgical Services and staff from the AAP Advocacy and External Affairs office.

The primary charge to COFN is the creation and revision of AAP policy statements, clinical reports, and technical reports. In many instances, this is done in collaboration with other AAP committees, councils, sections, or task forces. Oftentimes, COFN will reach out to external consultants for their expertise and review. Although COFN statements differ in content and purpose, they must all be evidence-based and formally developed. These statements and reports are intended to serve as clinical practice guidelines, to provide the pediatric provider with an organized, analytic framework for evaluating and treating common neonatal conditions. As noted in each COFN statement and report, they are not intended as an exclusive course of action or a standard of care. Rather, they represent expert review of all available data, evidence-based recommendations, and consensus where data may be lacking. AAP policy statements, clinical reports, and technical reports provide guidance, while allowing for flexibility in individual situations and encouraging sound clinical judgment.

Within this compendium, you will find the collected results of COFN efforts for the past several years, in addition to select policies from other AAP groups. A wide range of perinatal topics, from antenatal counseling for periviable gestations, to hospital discharge of the high-risk infant, to post-discharge follow-up of infants with congenital diaphragmatic hernia, is captured in these pages. More than 40 different topics, organized into 9 sections for easy reference, are included. Each statement or report contains an abstract overview, a concise presentation and critique of the available data, and a summary of the findings and/or recommendations, along with a current and comprehensive bibliography. It is important to note that COFN is continually working on new statements and reports, and each published statement or report is revised as new information becomes available.

As chairperson of COFN, I can attest to the hard work, dedication, and meticulous preparation that goes into each of the statements and reports presented in this compendium. As a practicing neonatologist, I guarantee that you will find this resource indispensable.

James J. Cummings, MD, MS, FAAP
Chairperson, AAP Committee on Fetus and Newborn