

# End of Life Care: Checklist

## Purpose

1. To identify the roles and responsibilities of the healthcare team when providing end of life (EOL) care in the Royal Columbian Hospital (RCH) Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).
2. To provide consistency and standards for the healthcare team during the provision of EOL care in the NICU

## Before withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment

- Role clarification before the family meeting between multidisciplinary attendees
- Family meeting with primary care provider, social worker, PCC etc
  - Review Family Discussion Points for areas to be covered during family meeting
  - Discuss outcome and timeline using a systematic approach
  - Develop care plan for withdrawal of care with parents (See “Care Plan”)
  - Document family meeting discussion and post on Backing Form
  - MRP to complete PPO
  - Discuss funerary arrangements
- Connect family with applicable Canuck Place resources
- Discuss location of EOL and make appropriate arrangements
- Contact Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep photographer with estimated time and date
  - Discuss what processes they would like photographed
- Discuss with parents any other personalisation details they'd like immediately before/during withdrawal of care (eg. certain music played, a walk, blankets/clothes etc)

## During withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment

- Who will be present?
  - Which members of the multidisciplinary team
    - Role clarification for team members who will be present
  - Which family and support people will be present
    - Who will hold or do S2S with the baby during extubation?
- Prep location immediately before EOL
  - Where will the baby be extubated?



- Photographer (present before, during, and/or after extubation)
- Removal of unnecessary equipment (use vaseline, adhesive remover, or baby oil as necessary)
  - PIV/Central lines
  - Cardiorespiratory monitors (incl tCO2)
  - Pulse oximeter
  - Remove neobar and tape before S2S
- Provide EOL medication as per PPO - includes routes
- Decrease ventilation settings according to respiratory CPG

**After death**

- Print and complete documents from Neonatal Loss Manual
- Create memento box
- Use kraft paper bags to pack extra belongings that do not fit in memento box
- Bathe and dress the infant with the family
- Arrange area for photographer, use list of suggested poses if no photographer is available (<https://www.nowilaymedowntosleep.org/medical/posing-guide/>)
- Have staff sign sympathy card