



Osservatorio Nazionale

delle Buone Pratiche sulla sicurezza nella Sanità

Scheda per la rappresentazione dell'esperienza

LEVEL: Hospital

TOPIC: Organizational solutions for COVID patients' management

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Descrizione dell'esperienza di risposta all'emergenza covid -19 che si intende condividere

Management of the newborn babies with suspected or confirmed Covid-19 infection

Infants with Covid-19 infection are mostly asymptomatic or suffer only mild symptoms, including mild fever, respiratory symptoms (polypnoea, dispnea, apnea, cough) eating difficulties, lethargy, and gastrointestinal symptoms (diarrhea, vomiting and abdominal distension). The incubation period described so far is 14 days.

With regards to Covid-19 infection in newborn babies, the following conditions can occur, which require the identification of different management paths, to be adapted based on the logistics of the diverse centers:

- ◆ Infant with suspected Covid-19 infection, symptomatic or asymptomatic
- ◆ Infant with confirmed Covid-19 infection, symptomatic or asymptomatic
- ◆ Infant for whom covid infection is excluded or healed

Babies with the mentioned conditions may arrive at the neonatology of the University Teaching Hospital Sant'Orsola through the following paths:

- 1) Infants born to a mother with suspected or confirmed Covid-19 infection
- 2) Infants suspected or confirmed positive to Covid-19 admitted to the Pediatric Emergency Department from home or transferred from other healthcare facilities
- 3) Infants transferred from other hospitals by activating the neonatal transport system
- 4) Infants born to a Covid-19 positive mother with unstable conditions or in respiratory assistance and not transferable

For each of the above scenarios, the appropriate pathways need to be identified so as to facilitate correct management and minimize the risk of mother-to-child transmission and transmission from the newborn to other patients or healthcare workers.



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Operational instructions were drafted, describing the appropriate ways for managing the mentioned scenarios.

It also describes how to reach the available Neonatologist and how to manage breastfeeding in different situations. The Neonatologist will be activated for the initial management of scenarios number 2 (in accordance with the Doctor on call of the Pediatric ED), 3 and 4. As per scenario number 1, the Neonatologist will be activated in case the baby with suspected or confirmed Covid-19 infection is unstable. Whatever the case, the neonatologist remains on duty until the baby is stabilized in the neonatal intensive care unit.