1.0 Introduction

This document was developed by an interdisciplinary group from Sick Kids using research knowledge, clinical experience and consensus agreement. A literature search was completed using OVID (2014-2017) using keywords Gastroschisis, Gastroschisis Management and Gastroschisis dressing protocols. This pathway is a general guideline and does not represent a professional care standard governing provider’s obligation to parents. Care must always be revised to meet individual patient needs.

Target Population

- Neonates admitted to the Hospital for Sick Children Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) with a diagnosis of uncomplicated Gastroschisis and a completed Gestation of >35 weeks.
- Neonates born prior to 35+0 weeks Gestational Age or found to have anatomical findings that may influence the care trajectory (i.e. several inflammation/matting or intestinal atresia) should not have their NICU hospitalization guided by this pathway.

Target Users

- Registered Nurses, NP’s, Physicians, Surgeons and Dieticians involved in the care of identified neonates.

2.0 Clinical Practice Recommendations

**CLINICAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT OF GASTROSCHISIS**

3.0 Implementation of CPG

Facilitators to implementation

- Neonates with Gastroschisis can often have a prolonged LOS in the NICU for several reasons, many of which are predictable. NICU and Surgical teams are keenly interested in standardizing an approach to allow patients to experience a smoother hospitalization and transition out of intensive care in a timelier manner.
- Targeted LOS to be posted at each neonate’s bedside to remind staff of pathway utilization
- Surgical Nurses Interest Group will act as resources to implement pathway
- Neonatal NP Group will advocate for pathway utilization and remind team to review daily
Organizational barriers to implementation

- Adoption by staff in early stages

Potential economic impact

- Decreased LOS and non-value add days in NICU

Key review criteria/indicators for monitoring and audit purposes

- LOS, non-value add days, patient experience

4.0 Related Documents

- Pain Management Guidelines for Post-op Patients in the NICU

5.0 Statement of Evidence

Evidence and process used to guide the development of this document was abstracted from a literature review completed evaluating the most recent evidence on Gastroschisis management. Papers discussing other aspects of Gastroschisis (such as timing of delivery or prenatal predictors of outcome were excluded from this review.

Process discussions centered on both current state at this institution as well as a desired future state with respect to timing of interventions.

6.0 References


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7.0 Guideline Group and Reviewers

Guideline Group Membership:
1. Hazel Pleasants-Terashita, RN(EC), NP NICU/General Surgery
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3. NICU Surgical Nurses Interest Group
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Internal Reviewers:
1. Christopher Tomlinson, MB, ChB, PhD

Attachments:

Gastroschisis_September_22_2017.pdf