

A Blueprint for Introducing Kangaroo Care Transport

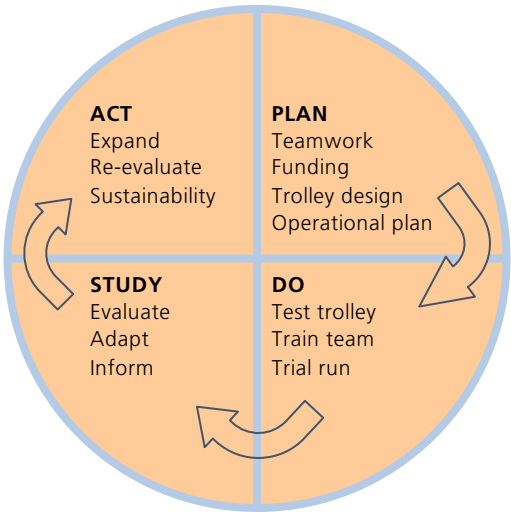


Author: **Libuse Mason** (Libuse.Mason@nhs.net)

A Quality Improvement project to reduce stress associated with neonatal transport by designing and introducing a new multifunctional trolley for kangaroo care and twin transfers.

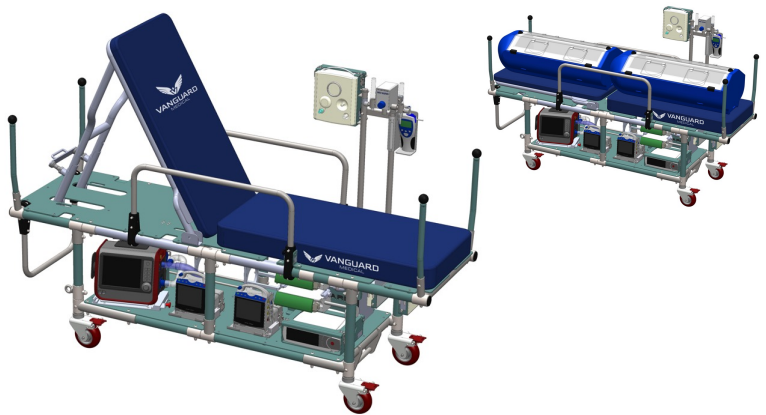
Background

Separation from parents soon after birth is **traumatic** for both babies and parents (Bergman, 2014 & 2019). Neonatal transport is perceived by parents as a **crisis** that **disrupts their relationship** with their baby (Fidler & McGrath, 2009). **A need for seamless transition** between care settings is emphasised (DoH, 2009; WHO, 2018) and **zero separation** of the mother-infant dyad is advocated (WHO, 2019; EFCNI, 2022). Furthermore, a **trauma-informed** approach for repatriating infants is advised (BAPM, 2023). Close chest to chest contact between parent and baby has many benefits such as improved infant sleep, neurodevelopment and parent-infant attachment (Campbell-Yeo et al., 2015). **Kangaroo care (KC)** during transport has been successfully used in **Germany** (Sontheimer et al., 2004), **Belgium** (Hennequin et al., 2018), **Sweden** (Ludqvist et al., 2021) and now also in the **UK** (one team (SoNAR) since 2023), with **no adverse incidents** reported. Therefore, KC during transport is considered **safe and beneficial for infant and parent wellbeing** (Mason et al., 2024).

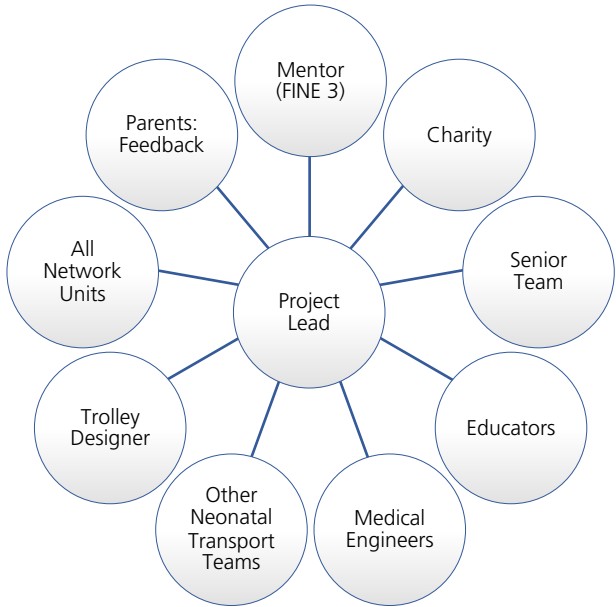


Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) model

Benefits	Risks and Mitigations
KC promotes closeness. Mother or father can hold their baby in KC.	Parent unwell → One BabyPod in the ambulance cupboard
Reduced parental anxiety. High parent satisfaction and stable infant observations have been reported.	→ Mother must be discharged from midwifery care → Criteria set for hours post-birth
Reduced separation of families	Infant deterioration → KC harness has an emergency release button for rapid access → Specific criteria for eligibility defined
Increased provision of family-centred care and service efficiency	

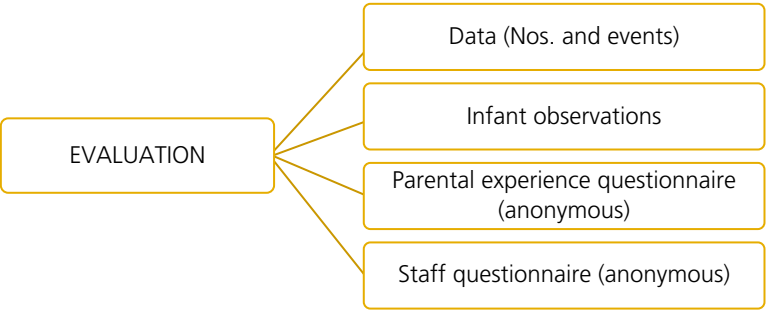


Multifunctional Trolley adapted for Kangaroo Care or Twins Together Transport. Designed and manufactured by Vanguard Medical in conjunction with the author and medical engineers.



Stakeholders and Participants

“Don’t push people to change, pull them towards it”



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