

# **The Trials and Tribulations of the Introduction and Implementation of New Positioning Products in the NICU**

Poster Summary

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## **Problem:**

In the NICU, improper positioning of infants leading to physical and motor developmental dysfunction. Infant conditions identified were preferential head turning; upper extremities in the W position; lower extremities in the M position, plagiocephaly; scaphocephaly; retracted shoulders, extensor tone and asymmetry.

## **Method:**

Create an interdisciplinary committee that will be an education resource and leader for change

**Product Research/Approval/Trial:** Research both product and costs, evaluate, obtain product approval a new product selection

**Product Implementation:** Facilitate change in practice in NICU through interdisciplinary education

**Ongoing Education:** Address negative receptivity to change issues through ongoing product and developmental education for improved patient care

**Clinical Trial:** Future endeavor; clinical testing to support initial need for change; validity

## **Conclusion:**

The committee demonstrated leadership and commitment during the many trials and tribulations inherent in the introduction of a new product. The NICU staff's level of receptivity varied, however, the committee was able to address areas of concern through ongoing education and availability. Their post-implementation survey concluded that the committee demonstrated commitment and accountability through continued refinement and modifications of the product's use and continued education through annual competencies, on-line education programs and bedside follow-up.

Through a multidisciplinary team effort, the committee implemented a developmentally supportive positioning product that points to improved outcomes in flexor tone, symmetrical movement, head shape and ROM for our NICU babies that we hope to validate through future clinical trials.