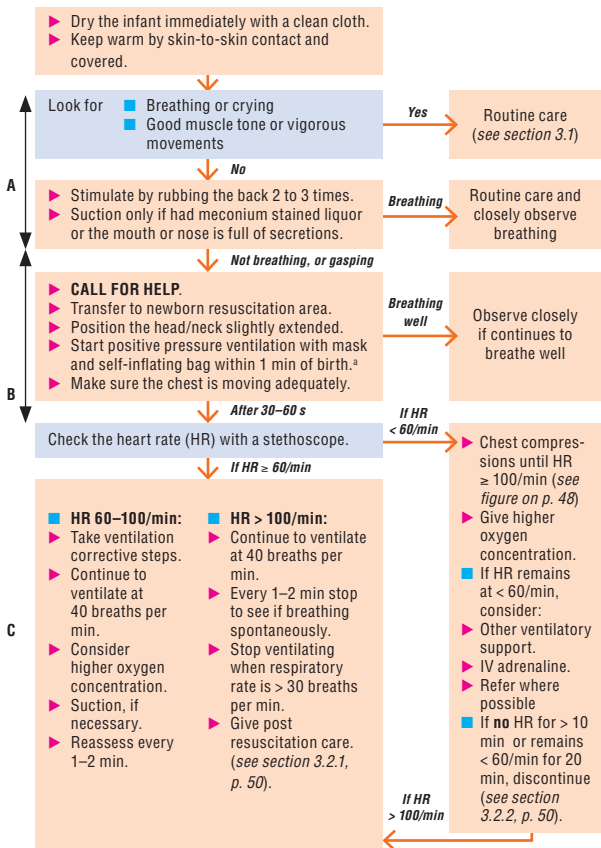


Chart 12. Neonatal resuscitation: Flow chart



^a Positive pressure ventilation should be initiated with air for infants with gestation > 32 weeks. For very preterm infants, it is preferable to start with 30% oxygen if possible.
A and **B** are basic resuscitation steps

Chart 12. Neonatal resuscitation: Steps and process

There is no need to slap the infant; rubbing the back two or three times in addition to thorough drying is enough for stimulation.

A. Airway

- ▶ Keep the infant's head in a slightly extended position to open the airway.
- ▶ Do not suction routinely. Suction the airway if there is meconium-stained fluid **and** the infant is **not** crying and moving limbs. When the amniotic fluid is clear, suction only if the nose or mouth is full of secretions.
 - Suck the mouth, nose and oropharynx by direct vision; do not suck right down the throat, as this can cause apnoea or bradycardia.

B. Breathing

- ▶ Choose a mask size that fits over the nose and mouth (see below): size 1 for normal-weight infant, size 0 for small (< 2.5 kg) infants
- ▶ Ventilate with bag and mask at 40–60 breaths/min.
- Make sure the chest moves up with each press on the bag; in a very small infant, make sure the chest does not move too much (danger of causing pneumothorax).

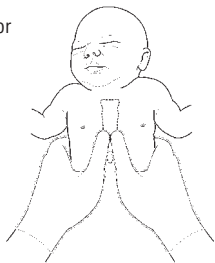
C. Circulation

- ▶ Give chest compressions if the heart rate is < 60/min after 30–60 s of ventilation with adequate chest movements: 90 compressions coordinated with 30 breaths/min (three compressions: one breath every 2 s).
- ▶ Place thumbs just below the line connecting the nipples on the sternum (see below).
- ▶ Compress one third the anterior–posterior diameter of the chest.



Correct head position to open up airway and for bag ventilation.

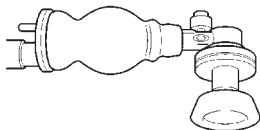
Do not hyperextend the neck.



Correct position of hands for cardiac massage of a neonate. The thumbs are used for compression over the sternum.

Chart 12. Neonatal resuscitation

Neonatal self-inflating resuscitation bag with round mask



Fitting mask over face:

Right size and position of mask



Right

Mask held too low



Wrong

Mask too small



Wrong

Mask too large

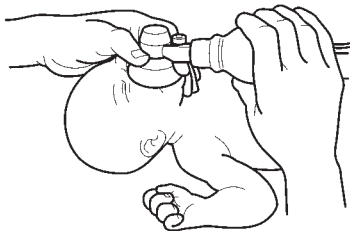


Wrong

Ventilating a neonate with bag and mask

Pull the jaw forwards towards the mask with the third finger of the hand holding the mask.

Do not hyperextend the neck.



Inadequate seal

If you hear air escaping from the mask, form a better seal. The commonest leak is between the nose and the cheeks.

