ABSTRACT

Canadian Association of Neonatal Nurse National Conference

NEONATAL CARE: It Takes a Village

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Guidelines for the Institutional Implementation of Developmental Neuro-Protective Care in the NICU

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Purpose
The use of developmental as an organized framework for care delivery in NICU is founded on the work of Dr. Als and her synactive theory of development¹. This theoretical construct has been advanced by the developmentally supportive care (DSC) core measures (CM)². The CM for DSC were endorsed by the National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN) in 2011 as their clinical practice guidelines for age-appropriate care of premature and critically ill infant and have been recently revised and expanded to reflect the most current evidence-based best practices in trauma-informed developmentally supportive, neuroprotective care³. The CM for DSC outline core competencies for professionals serving the premature infant. Supported by the Joint Commission and Health Canada, the implementation of these core measures require a strong framework for institutional operationalization.

Findings/Review
This framework is presented in the newly published Guidelines for the institutional implementation of developmental neuro-protective care in the NICU⁴,⁵. These guidelines are the first international joint position statement between four sister nursing associations as well as best practice recommendations to adopt and integrate developmental neuroprotective care at the institutional level. As the professional voice of neonatal nurses around the world, the NANN, CANN, CAPWHN & COINN recommend the use of these guidelines to provide a framework for the standardization of the implementation of developmentally supportive, neuroprotective care.

Conclusion
These guidelines provide flexibility to support the individual needs of each unit and organization by providing an evidence-based systematic approach to implementation in NICU and its operationalization.
References