

Shayla-Marre B

## NICU Disease Process Map

TV Kim's  
17, 19, 20

D.O.B. <u>12/18/2023</u>	APGAR at birth: <u>8</u>
Gestational Age <u>27w4d</u>	Adjusted Gestational Age <u>27w4d</u>
Birthweight <u>2</u> lbs. <u>9</u> oz. / <u>1351</u> grams	
Current weight <u>7</u> lbs. <u>6</u> oz. / <u>3457</u> grams	

Disease Name: Necrotizing enterocolitis

What is happening in the body?

the cells of the intestines are damaged or killed by an infection/inflammation.



What am I going to see during my assessment?

you may see swelling in the abdomen of the infant and the baby may be visibly uncomfortable upon palpation of the abdomen due to tenderness.



What tests and labs will be ordered?

X-rays may be ordered to confirm NEC. The doctor will be able to visualize a "bubbly" or "streaky" appearance of gas in the intestinal walls.



What trends and findings are expected?

abdominal swelling, abdominal tenderness, lethargy in the infant, restlessness, constipation, diarrhea, dark/bloody stools, discoloration of the belly.

**What medications and nursing interventions/treatments will you anticipate?**

- antibiotics to control/prevent infections
- Slow feedings to control stomach upset
- Monitor stools
- Keep baby hydrated to prevent constipation and dehydration
- NG tube/gavage feedings
- monitor labs
- watch for sepsis

**How will you know your patient is improving?**

- swelling in abdomen decreases
- baby tolerates feedings well
- regular, healthy formed stools

**What are risk factors for the diagnosis?**

- being born prematurely is a huge risk factor for developing necrotizing enterocolitis.
- Inadequate blood supply to babies intestines in utero/out of utero.
- feedings that occur too early.

**What are the long-term complications?**

- abdominal pain (chronic)
- intestinal scarring
- malabsorption
- anorexia due to abd. discomfort
- failure to thrive
- recurrence of NEC

**What patient teaching for management and/or prevention can the nurse do?**

- Monitor for abd. distention/tenderness
- Monitor for constipation/diarrhea
- ensure baby is hydrated at all times.
- slow feedings, pace baby