

Clinical Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

RETRIEVAL, TRANSFER AND REPATRIATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEONATES, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED CONGENITAL HEART ABNORMALITY

SETTING	South Wales and South West Congenital Heart Disease Network
FOR STAFF	All staff looking after neonates, children and young people with Congenital Heart Disease (CHD)
PATIENTS	Children with Congenital Heart Disease

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

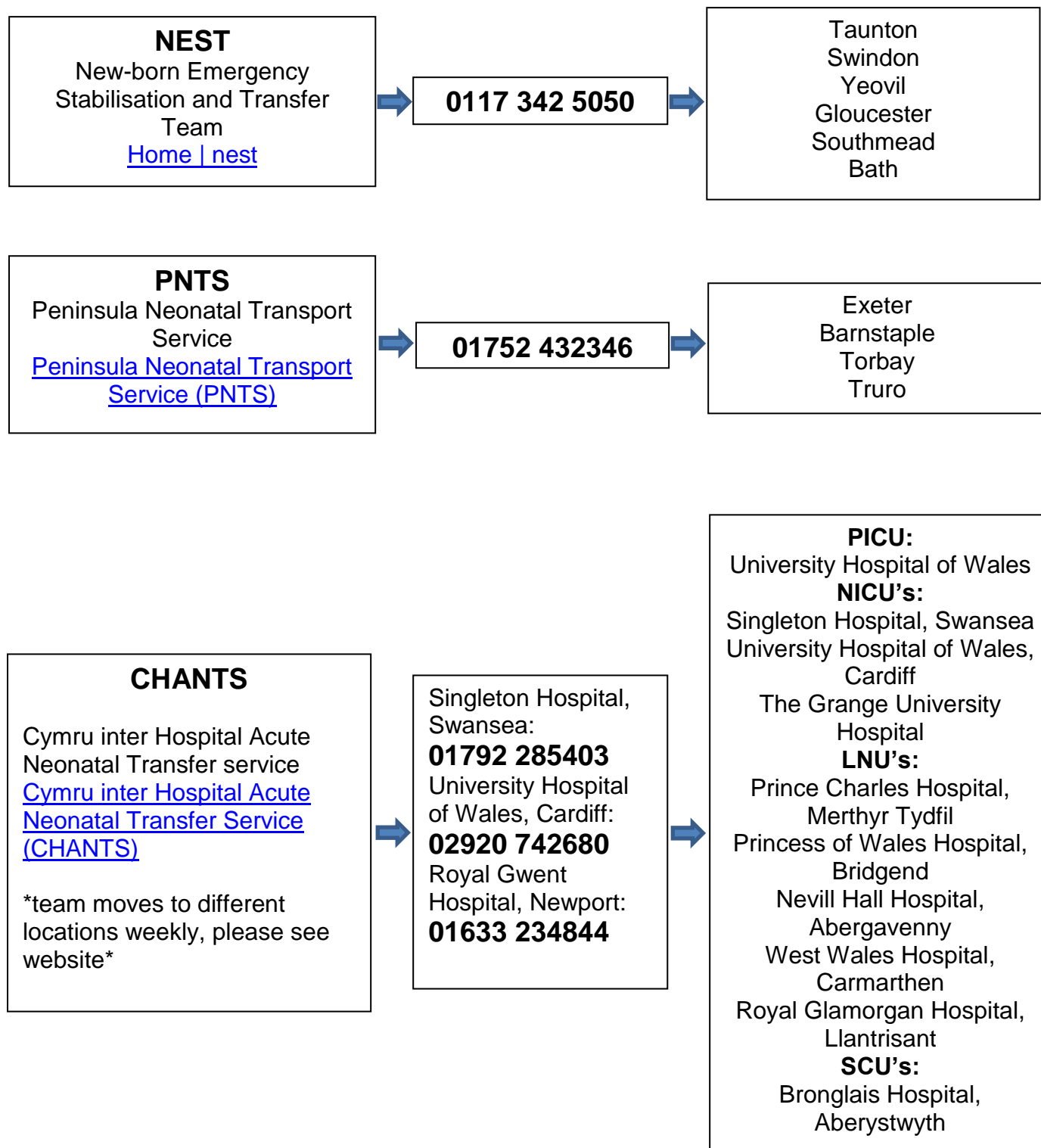
For Neonates, Children and Young People aged 0-16* with known or suspected Congenital Heart Disease requiring Transfer for medical management, cardiac intervention or cardiac surgery

*In exceptional circumstances, and at the discretion of the receiving Trust's unit, transfer of children and young adults over the age of 16 years, presenting in South Wales and South West England, who due to their specialist needs require critical care in a tertiary paediatric setting and are under formal transitional care arrangements;

REFERRAL AND ARRANGING TRANSFER

For a Neonate on a Neonatal intensive care unit:
depending on location of neonate

Please be aware that in the case of a neonatal transfer different geographical areas are covered by different transport teams, see table overleaf



See Appendix 1 for NEST Cardiac Pathway

Repatriation of a neonate

Reversal of the referral process and dependent on patient location and destination.
see above tables for contacts.

For a baby, child or young person in an Emergency department or children's ward:

- Transport for a baby, child or young adult with a cardiac condition who is in an Emergency department or Children's ward will be undertaken by the Wales and West Acute Transport for Children team (WATCH)
[Wales & West Acute Transport for Children Service \(WATCH\) |](#)
- WATCH should be contacted via 0300 0300 789 by the clinician responsible for the care of the patient. All referral calls should be made to the dedicated WATCH and trauma line – **0300 0300 789**.
- WATCH is commissioned for intensive care, high dependency care, palliative care and repatriation.
- A decision will be made as to whether the WATCH team needs to be mobilised or whether the child can continue to be jointly managed by their referring hospital with WATCH advice.
- All babies, children and young adults requiring surgical intervention will be transported to Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, OR an equivalent surgical centre for tertiary care, if there is no bed available in BRHC

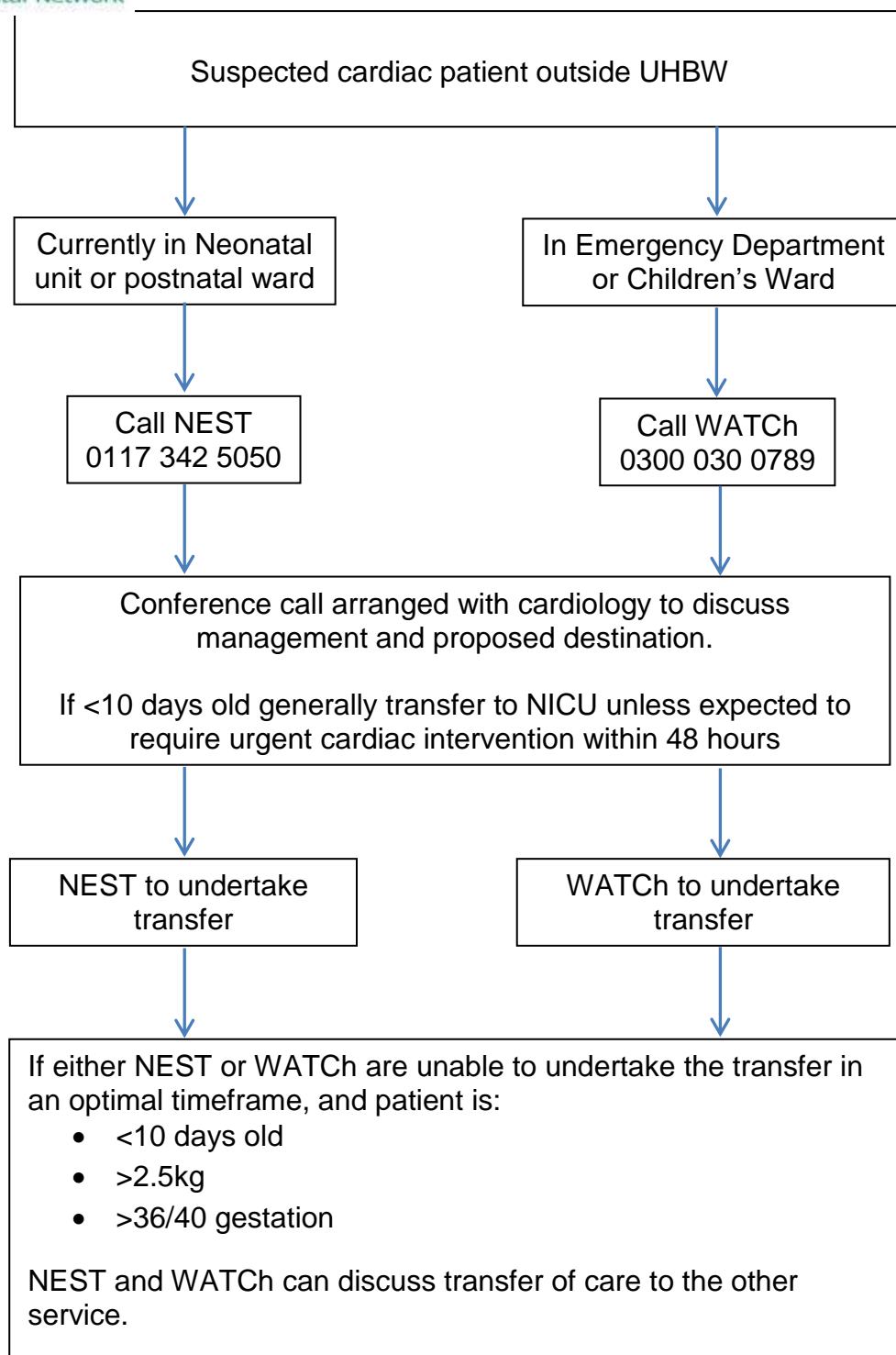
For a baby, child or young person in South Wales

- Call WATCH as above and access their website for referral information
[Wales & West Acute Transport for Children Service \(WATCH\) |](#)
- Welsh Cardiac patients and for patients requiring transfer to Cardiff HDU- see Appendix 2, WATCH cardiac pathway

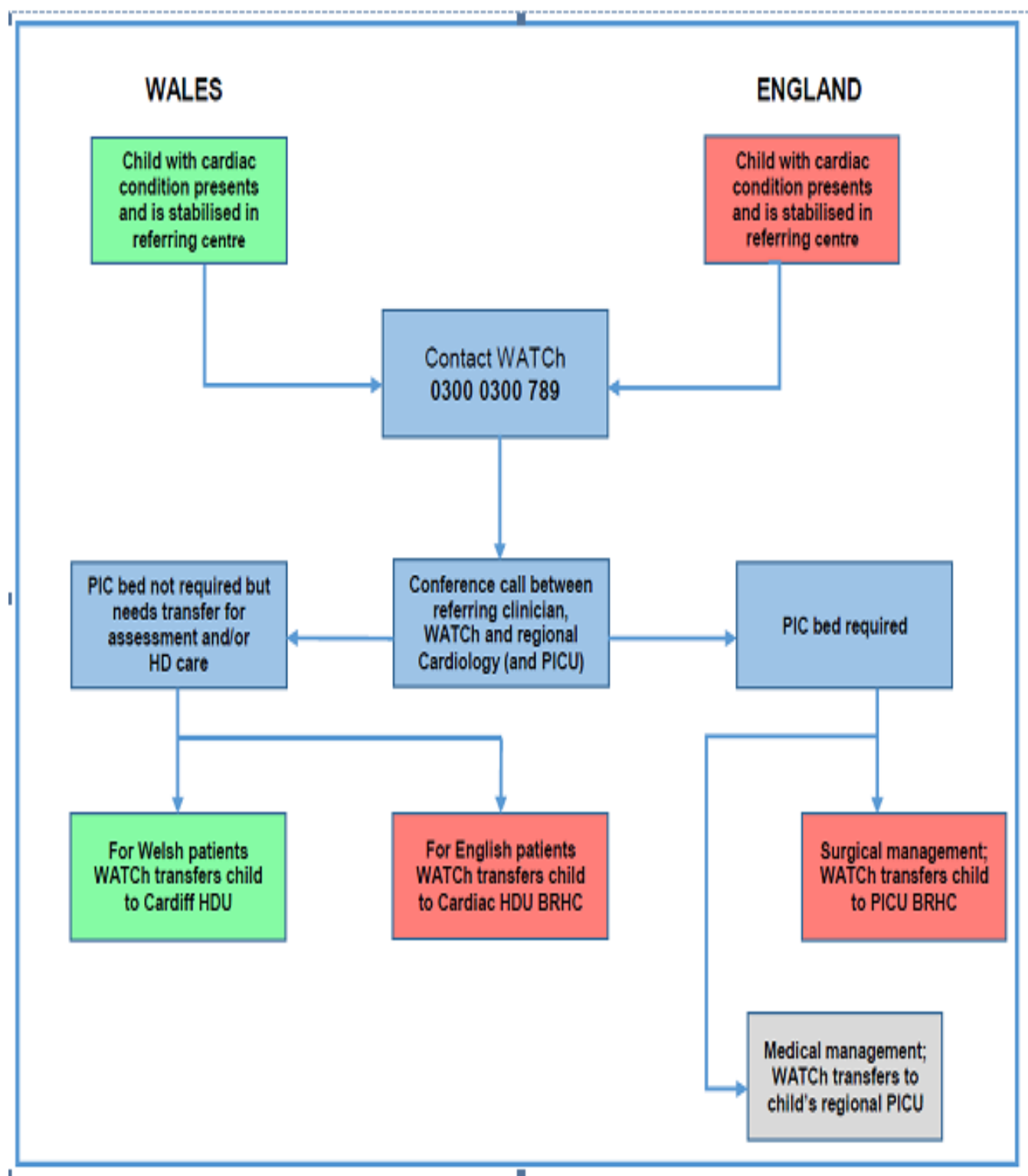
REPATRIATION (returning to DGH)

- All babies, children and young adults who have undergone specialist congenital heart surgery moving from an intensive care / high dependency bed, back to their referring Level 3 (District hospital) will be transported by WATCH.
- In the event of The WATCH Team being unavailable, other transport arrangements will need to be undertaken via the Trust's Patient Transport Service on ext 22626 (08:00 – 18:00) Bleep 21861 with an online referral via the PTS portal.

Appendix 1: NEST Cardiac pathway



Appendix 2: WATCH cardiac pathway



**RELATED
DOCUMENTS**

Name of document

DMS address i.e. <http://nwww.avon.nhs.uk/dms/download.aspx?did=nnnn>

WATCH:

Clinical standard operational procedure-transfer of cardiology patients from noahs ark childrens hospital to Bristol royal hospital for children-awaiting hyperlink

NEST SWNN care pathway:

<https://www.swneonatalnetwork.co.uk/media/126600/swnn-policy-care-pathway-v2.docx>

**AUTHORISING
BODY**

Cardiac clinical governance group-awaiting approval

SAFETY

Nil

QUERIES

Contact Jessica Hughes/Sheena Vernon Lead Nurses CHD Network
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