Why is a transport guideline and record necessary?

- Moving ICU patients involves a number of high-risk procedures (Everest and Munford, 2003).
- Assessment and anticipatory planning is crucial (Holleran, 2003).
- Standardisation of patient care is highly recommended (Oh, 2003).
- Documentation is a legal requirement (Nursing Council of New Zealand, 2005).
- Best practice requires anticipatory safety work (Benner, Hooper-Kyriakidis & Stannard, 1999).

What does the transport guideline and record add to ICU nursing practice?

- Enhanced patient outcomes (i.e., reduced incidents) by improved procedural management and assessment of patients requiring transportation from ICU.
- A standardised and an evidence-based approach to assessment and management of patients requiring transportation from ICU provides improved nursing care.
- The transport guideline provides clarification of ICU transportation management strategy.
- Formalised and structured documentation.

What do users of the Transport Record say?

- It was quick and easy to fill in; it took about 2-3 minutes.
- The record prompted me with reminders when I was at destination.
- It encouraged me to think about preparing my patient (e.g., I noticed a line needed to be secured).
- The record gave good tips for what to take.

Case study.

The Transport Record (TR) was used when transporting a particularly high acuity cardiac patient needing CT scanning. The TR prompted a pre-transport assessment, in which several areas of concern with the patient’s condition were identified. Following the assessment, the patient was then stabilised prior to transport. As a result, the patient received a medical review, which followed up the notable findings from the assessment. Therapy was promptly instigated and the patient’s condition was optimised in a safe environment. In this case the use of the TR resulted in this patient receiving appropriate and excellent care when being transported.

What were the key components to the development of the Transport Record?

- Identification and consideration of key stakeholders, particularly to optimise the usefulness of a new resource for ICU nurses.
- Development of a resource that is user friendly.
- Ensure the document is useful and does not add extra stress to a process that can be challenging, both logistically and in the management of time.
- Make the intra-hospital transport process easier to document.
- Developed a cost effective resource.
- Meet legal requirements for documentation.
- Ensure the documents effectiveness could be evaluated.