

LOYOLA PERINATAL NETWORK NURSING e-JOURNAL CLUB
Neonatal Evidence-Based (EBP) Practice Research Article Critique Summary
Oct 2025 – Dec 2025

Citation: Avila-Alvarez, A., Davis, P. G., Kamlin, C. O. F., & Thio, M. (2021). Documentation during neonatal resuscitation: a systematic review. Archives of Disease in Childhood - Fetal and Neonatal Edition, 106(4), 376–380.
<https://doi.org/10.1136/archdischild-2020-319948>

Critique summary created by: Lisa Festle, MSN, RNC-NIC, APRN/CNS

What was the clinical problem discussed in the Evidence Based Practice (EBP) article/study?

An examination of the accuracy of the neonatal resuscitation record is limited in the literature. Administering resuscitation to a newborn likely occurs during stressful and unexpected events, resulting in incomplete, or even non-existent, recordings of interventions. The Neonatal Resuscitation Program® (NRP®) provides an evidence-based approach to newborn care at the time of delivery, which aims to promote effective teamwork and communication for healthcare professionals who care for newborns. Lack of a recorder role in the delivery room to document and communicate events, interventions, and progress of resuscitation efforts may result in inaccurate/indistinguishable timing of evidence-based NRP steps. Accurate documentation is necessary, in any healthcare setting, for ethical, legal, research and quality improvement purposes. Literature shows paper-based documentation during medical emergencies is often inaccurate and unreliable. To further complicate matters, there is not a singular agreed upon guide used for neonatal resuscitation documentation.

What was the purpose of this EBP article/study?

The authors' research aim is to evaluate methods of documentation during a delivery room resuscitation and the accuracy of such recordings.

What were the main findings?

There is a need for consensus guidelines and innovative solutions in newborn resuscitation documentation. Even though accurate documentation in the delivery room is extremely important, literature reviews show there is little regarding this topic: no consensus recommendations on how to document important events, no consensus guides or templates, and poorly recorded and/or missing data.

What interventions were implemented or examined in this EBP article/study?

The authors concluded that "Further research and quality improvement in neonatal resuscitation are hampered by the inherent inaccuracies of current documentation methods. Hence, there is a need for innovative solutions in this field". They also suggest that routine video recording and the use of electronic medical records are among potential methods for improving documentation but have their own challenges.

Questions for discussion by participants:

1. What are the implications of the EBP article for clinical practice?
2. What recommendations do you have for your hospital or the Perinatal Center Network after reading this EBP article?
3. General Discussion/Comments/Questions
4. After reviewing the e-Journal article, how will you apply the evidence to impact your professional practice?