



Neonatal Transport Incubator

Parents dream of the day they get to bring their newborn baby home. However, for families with premature and critically ill babies they will spend their child's first days, weeks or even months bonding through the walls of an incubator, relying on round-the-clock intensive care to help their baby take their first breaths and begin to grow stronger.

CHEO's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) provides the most highly specialized care to the most fragile infants within a territory spanning over 440,000 square kilometres. Transport must be efficient and timely as every second counts and whether a baby is moved by ambulance or helicopter the equipment needs to provide a mobile intensive care unit that keeps the baby stable and safe.

WHY DOES CHEO NEED THIS INCUBATOR?

The work that CHEO's Transport Team and NICU staff provide is world-class. Not only are they there at the beginning of a family's journey, but they will be there when the day comes for baby to go home, or at least, to a health facility closer to home. That return trip is a happy milestone in the care of a baby with complex health needs, but it must be handled with the same rigorous procedures as their arrival at CHEO. The staff are skilled and able to save lives, but they cannot work without the proper resources. After 15 years and many repairs, we urgently need to purchase a new transport incubator that will help CHEO bring babies closer to their home and waiting families.

CHEO relies on transport incubators to bring the most delicate newborns to the hospital and to transfer them to facilities closer to where their families live when they are strong enough. To provide adequate service to the vast region that CHEO serves requires access to the proper equipment to avoid delays in treatment and allow staff to move patients out of the NICU as soon as they can safely return to their homes.



BENEFITS OF THE INCUBATOR

- The ability to transport babies that no longer need intensive care to other hospitals thereby freeing up space in CHEO's 16 bed NICU.
- Provide a warm environment with controlled airflow specially calibrated for infants supporting breathing and regulation of body temperature.
- Openings along the incubator which allow medical staff to access and provide care to the baby during transit.

IMPACT FOR CHEO'S PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

Approximately 500 newborns are transported every year by the CHEO Transport Team from all over Ontario. For those who must come to Ottawa from far away, it means a separation from family while receiving the lifesaving care that they need. This is heart wrenching for parents who are also isolated from their support network at a very difficult time. CHEO's goal is to reunite patients and caregivers with their families closer to home, where they belong. A new transport incubator that will facilitate these return trips allows us to do just that.