

Background

Transporting VLBW is a challenge in NICU right from birth as preventing heat loss is of utmost importance.

In the past, transport incubator was used to transfer VLBWs from Operating Theatre, Delivery Suite to NICU or for any diagnostic procedures. The unit was heavy and required more personnel to maneuver to ensure smooth transfer



Transport Incubator



Set up of Giraffe shuttle



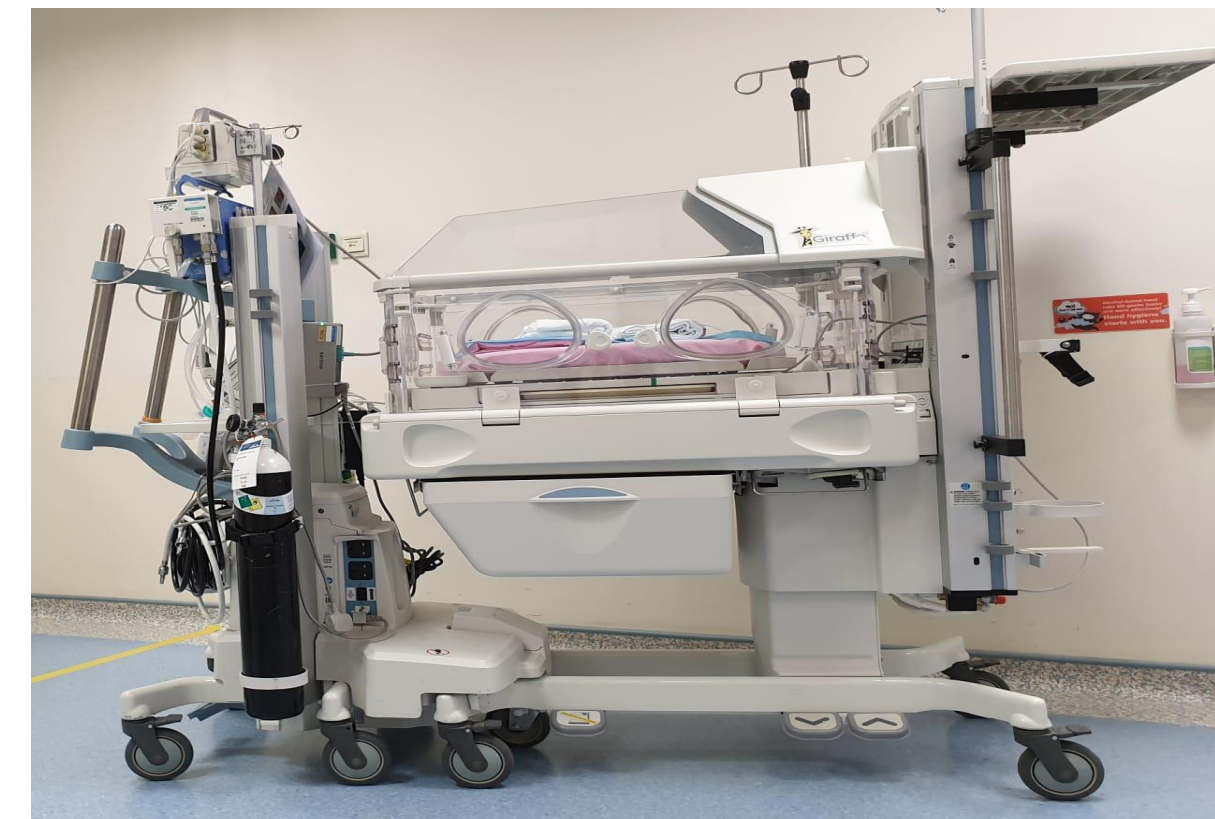
Objective

To have a safe and seamless transfer of VLBWs while maintaining the targeted temperature. Improving the workflow that benefit staff and our vulnerable group of patients

Methodology

- A shuttle (Giraffe) unit was modified to transport VLBWs:
 - The unit was tailored by vendor (include addition of poles and 2 cylinder brackets) for the attachment of transport ventilator, monitor, infusion pumps and portable gas cylinders
 - It comprises of battery pack that provides continuous power supply thus enabling the use of attached equipment and maintaining VLBW's temperature during transportation
- To attach Giraffe Omnibed (incubator) onto shuttle when transporting VLBWs from Delivery Suite or Operating Theatre to NICU

Attach shuttle to Giraffe
Omnibed prior to transfer



Transfer from Operating Theatre



VLBW's
temperature is
maintained
throughout
transportation

Ergonomic for staff
in terms of pushing
and changing of gas
cylinders as
compared to the
use of transport
incubator

Results

Reduction in the
usage of
manpower
compared to the
use of a transport
incubator

Minimized handling
of the VLBW as
neonate is
transferred to Giraffe
Omnibed prior to
transportation

Conclusion

Poor control of body temperature in VLBW is associated with mortality and morbidity in preterm infants. The change in workflow of using Giraffe shuttle for the transportation of VLBWs has ensured normothermia which reaps better long term outcomes. Reduction in number of nurses required to assist in the transportation enhances productivity. This facilitates nurses to spend more quality time with neonates and their families. Good ergonomic practices also elevate healthcare professionals' satisfaction and health.