

## Pediatric Administrators List Serve, February 2018

### Original question:

**For those of you with a NICU, are you using a positioning device under your babies on HFOV/oscillators? If so, which one and why? (gel mattress, z-flow, etc). Thanks!**

We are using z-flow mattresses when we can find one available but it is not part of any protocol.

### ORG A

---

I ask our NICU team and xxxx responded to your question with the below information. We have used z-flo mattresses with certain patients on HFOV in the past after confirming with both the z-flo and the oscillator company that this was not contraindicated. There is not a consistent standard for these patients in our unit, and there are some nurses and Respiratory Therapists who do not like the z-flos for patients who are critical because they feel they need a hard surface in the case that they need to intubate/re-intubate or give CPR. We have felt that there are situations when it is beneficial for a patient who is relatively stable on the oscillator to have a z-flo for pressure relief, support for appropriate developmental positioning, and boundaries to minimize stress.

### ORG B

---

Here is the response from one of our NICU clinicians:

For 24 weeks EGA infants- we use sheep skin.

For infants closer to term, we use a snuggly, gel pad, or z-flows (small or large depending on the size of the infant).

### ORG C

---

We are using z-flow as a positioning device.

### ORG D

---

At xxx we use the full body z-flows. We have been pleased with the support and ability to fit the babies.

### ORG E

---

“We do not use a specific positioning device with babies on HFOV. It would be up to nurse preference as to positioning aids they would want to use. We do not tend to use z-flow positioners however as we do not x-ray with that positioner and typically those babies will need frequent pictures.”

### ORG F

---

We don't use them frequently because the babies have to be lifted off of them for x rays and they have xrays more often when on ventilators/oscillators. We do use them occasionally with babies off ventilator support but not always.

ORG G