

## Capstone for Impact Submission | GY2019

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**Project Title:** Should Long-Term Consequences of NICU Care Be Discussed in Terms of Prognostic Uncertainty or Possible Harm?

**Student Name(s):** Allen, Genevieve

**Advisor Names(s):** Naomi Laventhal

**Branch:** Systems & Hospital Based Care

**Path of Excellence:** Ethics

**Handover/Transition:**

If this project can be continued by another UMMS student, you may contact them at the following email address/phone number (N/A if project cannot be handed over): **n/a**

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**Summary:**

My capstone for impact project was a two-part project. The first prong was to develop several model guidelines for the resuscitation of infants born at the margin of viability (22-24 weeks gestational age). Before this project, Michigan was one of the only hospitals in the area not offering resuscitation to infants born at 22 weeks gestational age.

After an extensive review of the literature, I developed three models that our NICU could use. The models were based on using gestation age alone, gestational age plus other factors (sex, oligohydraminos, steroid administration, etc), and universal resuscitation with a trial of care in the neonatal intensive care unit. The guidelines were reviewed by key stakeholders in the NICU and their responses helped create a more cohesive guideline. This final guideline then entered a more intensive review process, where it is now.

Since starting this project, resuscitation was attempted for several infants born at 22 weeks. Along the way, the AMA's Journal of Ethics reached out for a case commentary on an infant born at the margin of viability. I worked with my ethics mentor to craft a commentary, based on ethical principles and the literature review that I conducted for the guidelines project, that was focused on the counseling of prospective parents on potential benefits and complications of the resuscitation of an infant born extremely prematurely. This paper was published in Fall 2017.

**Methodology:**

literature review with aid of Taubman library informationists. Surveying NICU stake holders.

**Results/Conclusion:**

please see paper (attached)

**Reflection/Lessons Learned:**

I really enjoyed this project. It combined practical clinical interests with ethics. I got to dive in depth about an area of medicine I didn't even know existed before medical school started and potentially made an impact on patient care.