

Neonatal fellowship

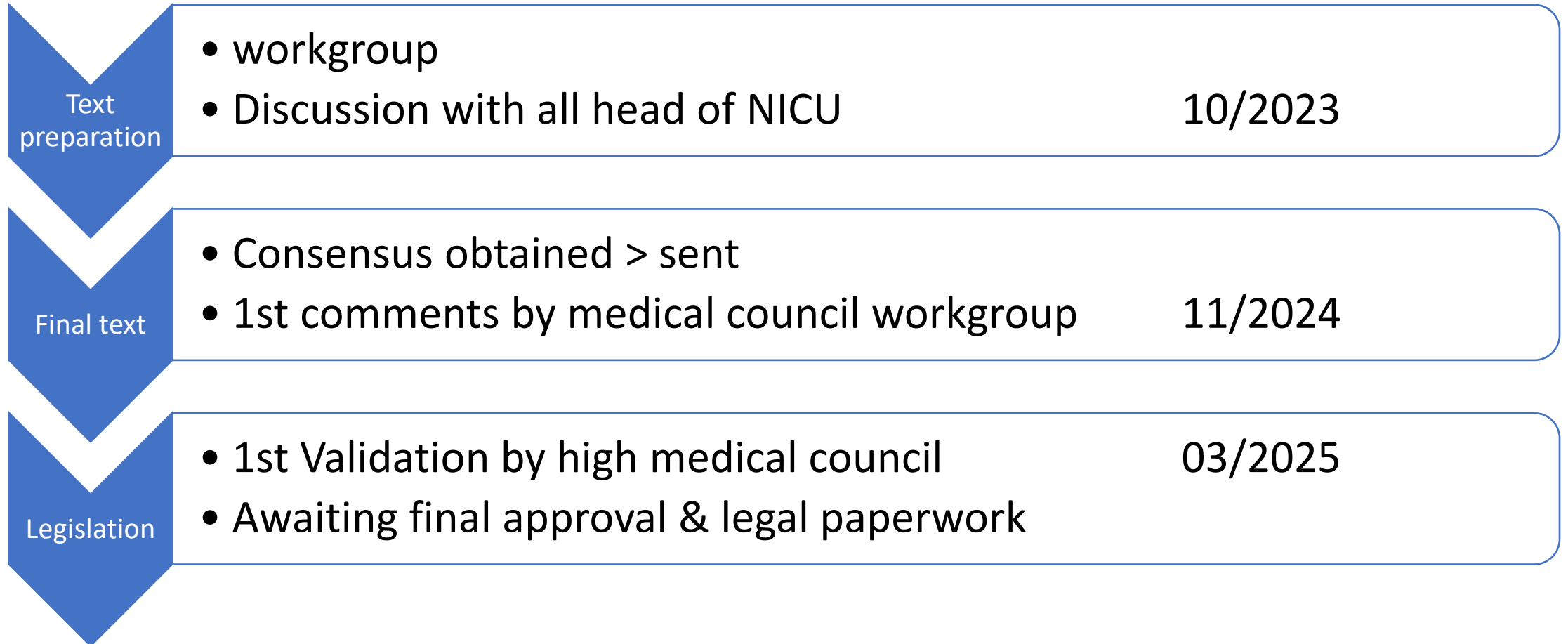
Heads of NICU meeting

04 06 2025

Introduction

- Plea for the development of subspecialties (BAOP)
- Opportunity to re-define the training in Neonatology
- Text preparation
 - 5 new subspecialties (pneumo-cardio-endocrino-nephro-gastro)
 - 1 reworked proposal : Neonatology

timeline



Basics

- 1 Legal text : regulation to obtain the level 3 title (neonatal medicine)
- + 1 addendum (abilities required)
 - knowledge
 - Skills
- Template : adequacy with other level 3 texts, as much as possible

Objectives

- Training in neonatology leads to the award of a specific level 3 professional qualification, which guarantees competencies relating to:
 - Care of the healthy newborn baby and its family
 - Care of premature or sick newborn babies and their families
 - Technical skills relating to this care
 - Medico legal and ethical reflection in relation to this care
 - Specific follow-up, particularly developmental, during this care.

Duration of fellowship

- *3 years (as for pediatric cardiologists)*
- Start after obtaining level 2 (pediatrics)
- 1 year done during the level 2 training can be accounted for by the agreement commission
- Full time, On calls included

Neonatology during level 2 training

- It is important to guarantee training in neonatal care in the level 2 paediatrics fellowship, in order to maintain the quality of care for newborn babies in N* departments. Local neonatal care must continue to be managed by paediatric specialists, as is currently the case.

Knowledge & skills : general (1)

1. thorough knowledge of the physiology and pathology of the foetus and the newborn
2. competent to discuss problems identified during the antenatal period with the obstetrician, in collaboration with the Maternal Intensive Care (M.I.C.)
3. Able to deal independently with the problems of neonatal adaptation, premature birth and life-threatening emergencies
4. coordinates the activities of the team and sets priorities with regard to the individual investigation and treatment plan
5. Knows the functioning, indication and possible risks of technical equipment
6. organisation of obstetrics and neonatology departments, hospital hygiene and the relevant economic and legal issues
7. carries out neonatal transports

Knowledge & skills : general (2)

8. ethical knowledge to guide his/her decisions in the delicate situations he/she encounters
9. places the parents at the centre of the overall care of the new-born baby (family-centred care)
10. recognises & applies the essential importance of developmental care (IFCDC : Infant & Family Centered).
11. teamwork and its principles
12. assisting parents in critical situations.

Fellowship structure/duration

- 3 years (cfr supra)
- Stage planning defined
- Location :
 - at least 2 different certified NICU's
 - An hospital where a certified teaching paediatric department exists for at least 12m.
 - Education abroad possible (if defined as such in the training plan)
 - Extra-NICU training (rotational/specific training) allowed for max 6m

Fellowship structure/duration (2)

- Theory Program :
 - Defined (shortly in legal text, detailed in addendum)
 - self-training
 - Academic training can be organized
- Practical training :
 - portfolio

Evaluation

- Regular coaching by the staff on site
- Publication and/or Oral presentation :
 - Different from the level 2 publication
 - Significant contribution, in a peer reviewed journal/congress
- Theoretical :
 - Final exam organized by the agreement commission (under ministry control)
- Practical :
 - portfolio

Training centers

- NICU (!!)
 - Adequately equipped for training
 - With a sufficient nursing staff
- In an hospital with :
 - MIC unit
 - Outpatient department
 - Access to pediatric and other subspecialties
- Minimal activity criteria :
 - 15 justified beds
 - Legal agreement criteria for the NICU fulfilled for the last 3 years
- Trainees per center
 - 1 if < 25 justified beds
 - 2 if > 25 justified beds

Training staff

- Training director :
 - Fulfills the general agreement criteria defined in the law
 - Neonatologist for > 5y, full time (>8/10)
 - Having a team of at least 1 FTE neonatologist for >3y
 - Demonstration of teaching activities
 - Self-review (accreditation) and peer-review
- Training coordinator :
 - training director (as defined above), not a level 2 coordinator
 - Takes part in the 3year's training plan
 - Defines a convention with the candidate

Transient dispositions

- « Double » level 3 specialist
 - Active neonatologist
 - trained in another Level 3 subspecialty not yet recognized as such

(Very few people)

Conclusion

- Many discussions
- Compromises
- Awaiting final approval from high medical council, due 06/2025