

IOWA NEONATOLOGY HANDBOOK

Blood Pressure in the Newborn

Edward F. Bell, MD

Peer Review Status: Internally Peer Reviewed 9/13/12

The following figures can be used to assess normal blood pressure in young premature infants. As a rough rule of thumb, the lower limit of normal mean blood pressure in mm Hg on the day of birth is approximately equal to the gestational age in weeks (Lee J et al, 1999). Hypotension should not usually be treated without other signs of insufficient cardiac output (e.g. poor skin perfusion, metabolic acidosis, anuria and so forth).

The figures below are the mean and 95% confidence limits for blood pressure during the first 12 hours after birth, (Versmold HT et al, 1981).

