

Transition to Adult Health Care ACT Sheet

Transition is an ongoing process that does not end with transfer of care. The goal of transition of adolescents with chronic medical conditions is to provide uninterrupted, comprehensive, culturally sensitive, coordinated, and developmentally appropriate healthcare. The transition team includes at least the patient and family, and the pediatric, adult PCP, and specialty care providers. For the general principles of transition, refer to the [2011 AAP/AAFP/ACP transition clinical report](#), which includes the recommendation that transition planning begin no later than age 12 and includes a patient readiness assessment.

Argininosuccinic Acidemia

(Argininosuccinic aciduria, argininosuccinic acid lyase deficiency, argininosuccinate lyase deficiency, ASL deficiency, argininosuccinase deficiency)

[Urea Cycle Disorder]

Condition Description: The urea cycle is the enzyme cycle whereby ammonia is converted to urea. Argininosuccinic acidemia is an autosomal recessive genetic disorder, in which argininosuccinate lyase (ASL) is defective, interrupting the urea cycle and resulting in hyperammonemia. Hyperammonemia can be very toxic to the brain. Impaired neurocognitive function is common. Management usually includes a diet low in protein and drug therapy.

Clinical Considerations: In affected individuals, excessive protein intake in relation to their diet and/or catabolism due to stress (prolonged fasting, infection, fever, pregnancy and postpartum, surgery, systemic steroids) can lead to hyperammonemia. Chronic liver disease (including reduced clearance of medications) and systemic hypertension may be present. Valproic acid, as well as other drugs contraindicated in chronic liver disease, should be avoided. In addition, hair may be brittle and friable (trichorrhexis nodosa). Immediate clinical evaluation is required when the patient exhibits fever or signs and symptoms of hyperammonemia, such as sleepiness, recurrent vomiting, neurologic and psychiatric findings. The patient should have an acute illness protocol that should be taken to the emergency room (see [acute illness protocol](#)). Pregnancies should be considered high risk. There are generally no special considerations with puberty, sexual function and fertility.

THE TRANSITION TEAM SHOULD TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

- Initiate a dialogue among transition team members and establish an adult medical home.
- Facilitate consistency and coordination of care among multiple health care providers as the patient transitions to independent living (to include college, relocation, employment).
- Consult with specialists (ideally the metabolic specialist and dietitian caring for the patient) to establish a co-management plan, including input from the patient/family. This care plan should include:
 - Nutritional assessment (diet low in protein)
 - Drug therapy as indicated (scavenger drugs, arginine)
 - Up to date immunizations
 - Avoidance of valproic acid, systemic steroids, and other drugs as indicated above
- Confirm the diagnosis by review of the medical record and previous laboratory studies.
- Order laboratory studies as indicated (blood ammonia and plasma amino acids).
- Identify the patient's health care coverage (including insurance) and access to care.
- Assess and address the patient's psychological, behavioral, and social service needs.
- Offer health education and genetic counseling concerning future reproductive decisions.
- Make patient aware of urea cycle disorders support group.

Additional Information:

[AAP/AAFP/ACP Transition Clinical Report](#)

[Transition Toolkit](#) (New England Consortium of Metabolic Programs)

[Got Transition](#)

[National Urea Cycle Disorders Foundation](#)

Referral (local, state, regional and national):

[Clinical Services](#)

[Find Genetic Services](#)

Disclaimer: This guideline is designed primarily as an educational resource for clinicians to help them provide quality medical care. It should not be considered inclusive of all proper procedures and tests or exclusive of other procedures and tests that are reasonably directed to obtaining the same results. Adherence to this guideline does not necessarily ensure a successful medical outcome. In determining the propriety of any specific procedure or test, the clinician should apply his or her own professional judgment to the specific clinical circumstances presented by the individual patient or specimen. Clinicians are encouraged to document the reasons for the use of a particular procedure or test, whether or not it is in conformance with this guideline. Clinicians also are advised to take notice of the date this guideline was adopted, and to consider other medical and scientific information that become available after that date.

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LOCAL RESOURCES: Insert State program web site links

State Resource site (insert program information)

Name	<input type="text"/>
URL	<input type="text"/>
Comments	<input type="text"/>

APPENDIX: Resources with Full URL Addresses

Acute Illness Protocol

<http://newenglandconsortium.org/for-professionals/acute-illness-protocols/urea-cycle-disorders/>

Additional Information:

AAP/AAFP/ACP Transition Clinical Report

<http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/pediatrics:128/1/182.pdf>

New England Consortium of Metabolic Programs Transition Toolkit

<http://newenglandconsortium.org/for-families/transition-toolkit/>

Got Transition

<http://www.gottransition.org>

National Urea Cycle Disorders Foundation

<http://www.nucdf.org/>

Referral (local, state, regional and national):

Clinical Services

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/GeneTests/clinic?db=GeneTests>

Find Genetic Services

<http://www.acmg.net/GIS/Disclaimer.aspx>

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