Many male dairy calves are sold when they are less than two weeks old and undergo long-distance transport to calf rearing facilities where they face high morbidity and mortality rates. The most common calf diseases are bovine respiratory disease (BRD) and neonatal calf diarrhea (NCD). The objective of this study was to identify which health factors measured at the dairy farm of origin related to treatment for BRD and NCD during the first two weeks at calf grower operations. Age, heart girth circumference, serum total protein (STP), navel and attitude scores were recorded for 374 male Holstein calves from 11 BC dairy farms using the Calf Health Scorer app before being shipped to one of two calf growing operations in Western Canada. All treatments for BRD and NCD, and mortality for any reason were recorded during the first four weeks after calf arrival. Mixed logistic regression was used to assess which pre-transport calf measurements were associated with mortality or disease treatment. An overall mortality rate of 6.1% was observed during the duration of the study. Between both calf grower locations, 23% of calves were treated for NCD, while 44% were treated for BRD at least once during the first two weeks. Low STP levels were identified in 14.6% of calves. Calves with smaller heart girth circumferences (P=0.04) and poor navel scores (P=0.02) had increased risk for treatment for NCD. Calves with poor attitude scores had increased likelihood of dying (P=0.002). Calf health and size are important for fitness for transport.

Themes:
Check (highlight) the most applicable theme according to the abstract.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Innovation and Technology</th>
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Comments:
Clear and well constructed.