NICU design
Core principles of NICU design to promote family-centred care

Statement of the standard
Neonatal care is optimised by utilising key design elements to promote the family as primary care givers throughout the stay.

Benefits

Short-term benefits:
• Facilitated implementation of family-centred and developmental care
• Improved parental presence, confidence and parent-infant interaction both pre- and post-discharge
• Reduced rate of late-onset neonatal sepsis

Long-term benefits: N/A

For parents and family

• Parents and family are informed by healthcare professionals about NICU design and are part of the planning process for NICU design.
• Parents are educated by healthcare professionals about housekeeping rules, patient safety and hygiene, to facilitate their active role in the care of their infant.

For healthcare professionals and relevant stakeholders

• A unit guideline on the organisation of care in developmentally supportive adapted NICU design is adhered to by all responsible stakeholders.
• Training on the basic emotional, social and psychologic needs of patients, parents and siblings, and of the principles of family-centred care is attended by all responsible healthcare professionals and stakeholders before they are involved in the planning process for a new unit.
• Healthcare professionals are part of the planning process for a NICU design.

For health service

• A national guideline for NICU design incorporating the principles of family-centred care is available and regularly updated.
• Parents and NICU healthcare professionals are involved in guideline development and planning processes.

Here you can access the full standard:
https://newborn-health-standards.org/nicu-design-family-centred-care/