Palliative care


Statement of the standard

Interdisciplinary neonatal palliative care safeguards the quality of life of the infant and the family when a life limiting condition is diagnosed.

Benefits

- Reduced suffering from pain and discomfort for infants.
- Improved support for parents during palliative care.
- Better informed healthcare professionals regarding care priorities and the wishes of parents.
- Better support for healthcare professionals in their role as palliative care providers.

For parents and family

- Parents are informed by healthcare professionals about the life limiting conditions of their infant and family support options.
- Infants with life limiting conditions receive appropriate medication and care.
- Parents are supported in a way that meets their needs and respect their wishes.
- Parents are supported in their grief rituals.

For healthcare professionals

- A unit guideline on palliative care is adhered to by all healthcare professionals.
- Training on palliative care is attended by all responsible healthcare professionals.

For hospitals

- Training on palliative care is ensured.
- Specialists services are part of the neonatal palliative care team such as psychology, pastoral/spiritual and social care teams.

For health service

- A national guideline on palliative care is available and regularly updated.
- Smooth transition from hospital to home or hospice is provided by a good collaboration of healthcare services with palliative care services.