Infant- & family-centred developmental care

Supportive sensory environment
The hospital sensory environment is adjusted to the infants’ sensory expectancies and perceptual competences.

Family support services
The family receives care in an environment where their socioeconomic, mental health and spiritual needs are supported.

Management of the acoustic environment
A managed acoustic environment reduces stress and discomfort for infants.

Family access
Parents (and substitutes designated by the parents) have continuous access and are able to remain with the infant throughout the 24 hours.

Support for parental-infant bonding
The fostering of early bonding between parents and their newborn infant is pursued through strategies which promote early contact for the parent-infant dyad.

Clinical consultation and supervision for healthcare professionals on supporting families
Healthcare professionals receive counselling and regular clinical supervision in communicating with and providing emotional support for parents.

Very early and continuous skin-to-skin contact
Skin-to-skin contact between mother or father and newborn infant is initiated as early as possible and maintained continuously.

Parental involvement
Parents are members of the caregiving team and, with individualised support, assume the primary role in the provision of care of their infant, and are active partners in decision-making processes.

Case management and transition to home
An individual case management plan for each newborn infant is established, in collaboration with parents, to plan and coordinate needed investigations and procedures, ensure the acquisition of needed parental competences prior to discharge and to plan follow-up and continuing care.

Infant- and family-centred developmental care (IFCDC) competence is ensured by providing formal education and recurrent training for hospital and unit leadership, healthcare professionals and other staff working or visiting the neonatal unit.

EFCNI (European Foundation for the care of newborn infants)