



Patient safety & hygiene practice

Environmental hygiene in the NICU

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Statement of the standard

High standards of environmental hygiene and cleaning are ensured to reduce the occurrence of infection and complications.



For parents and family

- Parents and family are informed by healthcare professionals about the hygiene and personal items policy, why it is required and what is involved (e.g. jewellery, mobile phone).
- Parents are asked by healthcare professionals to instruct their own family and relatives to apply NICU hygiene guidelines.



For neonatal unit

- A unit guideline for hygiene including specified methods and schedules for cleaning of surface and equipment is available and regularly updated.
- A schedule of cleaning procedures and their monitoring is continuously available.
- An experienced person responsible for environmental hygiene and monitoring is identified.



For hospital

- Training on environmental hygiene policy and identification of poor practice is ensured.
- Training of staff responsible for cleaning is ensured on yearly basis.

Benefits

Short-term benefits

- Reduced number of infections
- Reduced length of NICU stay
- Reduced healthcare costs

Long-term benefits

- Earlier discharge and reduced stress for families
- Reduced exposure to antibiotics
- Improved neurodevelopmental outcome
- Reduced healthcare costs



For healthcare professionals

- A unit guideline for hygiene including specified methods and schedules for cleaning of surface and equipment is adhered to by all staff.
- Training on environmental hygiene policy and identification of poor practice is attended by all staff.
- Training on cleaning on yearly basis is attended by all responsible staff.



For health service

- A national guideline for hygiene including specified methods and schedules for cleaning of surface and equipment is available and regularly updated.



european standards of
care for newborn health

Here you can access the full standard:
[https://newborn-health-standards.org/
environmental_hygiene](https://newborn-health-standards.org/environmental_hygiene)



european foundation for
the care of newborn infants