



## Ethical decision-making &amp; palliative care

## Palliative care

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### 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.



#### 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 neonatal unit

- A unit guideline on palliative care is available and regularly updated.
- Palliative care practice is integrated within direct care and with senior supervision.
- A specialist inter-disciplinary palliative care team is organised.
- Regular healthcare professionals debriefing sessions are organised.
- Collaboration with other palliative care professionals such as hospice care or community care is established.

### 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 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.
- Specialist 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.

