



Family access

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Statement of the standard

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



For parents and family

- Parents and family are informed by healthcare professionals about the importance of being present and being the primary care giver during neonatal care.
- Parents (or family designated substitutes) are educated and supported to be the primary care givers during neonatal care by healthcare professionals.



For healthcare professionals

- A unit guideline on 24-hour access for parents (or family designated substitutes) without interruption during rounds, shift changes and procedures is adhered to by all responsible healthcare professionals.



For hospitals

- The 24-hour access to the hospital building is authorised for parents (or family designated substitutes).

Benefits

Short-term benefits

- Improved parent-infant bonding
- Increased breastfeeding rates
- Longer skin-to-skin contact
- Reduced short-term pulmonary morbidity
- Improved feeding and weight gain
- Reduced stress for infants
- Increased neuro-behavioural stability in preterm infants
- Increased parental involvement
- Reduced length of stay in the NICU

Long-term benefits

- Improved parent-infant interaction following discharge
- Reduced rates of readmission following NICU discharge
- Reduced costs of NICU hospitalisation
- Improved parental mental health



For neonatal unit

- A unit guideline on 24-hour unit access for parents (or family designated substitutes) and solutions to meet confidentiality needs is available and regularly updated.



For health service

- A national guideline on 24-hour access to neonatal units is available and regularly updated and supported by national professional societies and health ministries.

