

Delivering Family-Integrated Care-Well Newborn to NICU

Objectives

- Describe the phases in attachment that begin before pregnancy and continue up to and after birth
- Recognize the importance of social and emotional support and the caregiver interventions fostering quality parent-infant attachment
- Outline the principles and evolving standards of care aligned with family-integrated care as applied to the NICU environment
- Discuss the value to families of mental health professional involvement in the planning and provision of NICU care
- Recall the parental reaction stages often observed after the birth of an infant with complex medical needs and indicate approaches for parental support
- Identify organizational barriers to implementation of family-integrated care noting the discrepancy between health care providers' knowledge and active practice

Content Outline

1. Care of Parents Using Pillars of Family-Integrated Care
 - 1.1 Steps in attachment before and during pregnancy and after birth
 - 1.2 Effects of social and emotional support during labor
 - 1.3 Maternal and newborn patterns of behavior immediately after birth
 - 1.4 Care of healthy term newborns and their parents following birth
 - 1.5 Philosophy versus status of current practice of family-integrated NICU care
 - 1.6 Family-integrated care interventions for families of premature infants
 - 1.7 WHO and UNICEF care standards for improved parent and infant outcomes
 - 1.8 Role of mental health professionals providing parental support in the NICU
 - 1.9 Care planning and support for families of medically complex infants
 - 1.10 Discharge planning and interventions to support NICU infants and parents
 - 1.11 Critical elements in communicating medical information to parents
 - 1.12 Staff education needs in regard to initial and ongoing communication skills
 - 1.13 Practical suggestions for providing care for parents

Reading Material Resources

Module WB2738: Delivering Family-Integrated Care-Well Newborn to NICU is based on the resource listed below. A copy of the resource is included with the module.

Chapter 10 Care of the Parents, Weber AM et al., in *Klaus and Fanaroff's Care of the High Risk Neonate, Eighth Edition*, Elsevier, 2026. 143-158.e5