
Family Integrated Care improves infant outcomes and increases breastfeeding rates

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Family Integrated Care Model – a new paradigm for care in the NICU

Drawing inspiration from the Humane Care model in Estonia, we developed a Family Integrated Care Model in Canada that significantly advances the concepts of Family Centered Care. In the Family Integrated Care Model, parents become an integral part of the NICU care team, and they are taught to provide all aspects of routine care for their babies, with the exception of IV and procedures. Parents routinely attend and provide reports during ward rounds, write in the medical charts, participate in daily patient care management decisions, and provide all routine care for their babies. We will share the results of a large multicentre trial in Canada, Australia and New Zealand, which demonstrate improved infant outcomes, increased breastfeeding rates and reduced parental stress and anxiety.