

## **Detailed Information about the Research**

### **POPPY - Qualitative study of parents who have had a premature baby**

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#### **Aims**

To explore parents' experiences and views of the information, support and communication in the neonatal setting.

To assess the appropriateness and acceptability of these interventions from the parents' perspective.

#### **Methods**

This is a qualitative study using discussion (focus) groups and interviews to assess parents' experiences of interventions used in the neonatal unit – what they liked, what could be improved, what was missing.

The aim is to recruit parents from different age, gender, ethnic origins and socio-demographic backgrounds to get a varied sample. Interpreters will be available for parents who have limited English.

Parents will be provided with information about the study in leaflet form at the neonatal unit just before, or at, discharge from the neonatal units. Interested parents will then be sent a more detailed information pack and a formal consent form to participate in the study. Discussion groups and interviews will take place 1-3 months after the parents are discharged from the neonatal unit. Interviews will take place at parents' homes or at a place convenient to them. Discussion groups will take place in a suitable room in the hospital or at a venue convenient to the parents.

If a support group already exists in an area, they can be contacted to see whether any members would like to take part in a discussion group. We will send the co-ordinator of the support group a set of information sheets about the study and ask them to co-ordinate responses from group members. In the case of the support group, parents should have had their premature baby within the past 3 years. Reasonable expenses for travel and childcare costs will be met.

#### **Dissemination**

Results will be disseminated to health professionals and parents by the NCT and by Bliss, the premature baby charity. The results will also be published in peer review journals and presented at conferences.

Individual neonatal unit reports for participating hospitals can be produced if requested.