

**Circulated to: Neonatal Network Managers / Clinical Leads / Lead Nurses / Chairs / UI rep(s)
Neonatal Unit Clinical Leads / Lead Nurses / Breastfeeding Advisors**

Dear Sir or Madam

We are delighted to enclose the final report from POPPY, the Parents of Premature Babies Project, providing a summary of findings and recommendations from a three-year research study. The research was led by the RCN Research Institute at the University of Warwick, NCT and Bliss, in collaboration with the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit at the University of Oxford, and funded by the Big Lottery Fund. It examines the communication, information and support needs of parents of premature babies. Parents with a sick term baby in the neonatal unit have many similar needs.

The report identifies the need for all neonatal units in the UK to provide high quality, family-centred care. It includes a series of indicators of good practice to help you review your own family-centred care provision (p.32).

Families are grateful for the outstanding clinical care that their babies usually receive at such a critical time. However, it is often issues such as support for skin-to-skin (or 'kangaroo') care and breastfeeding, access to suitable accommodation and clear information about their baby's condition and developmental needs, that can have a significant impact on a family's confidence and well-being.

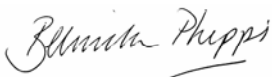
The POPPY study included:

- a systematic review of published research studies,
- a qualitative study of 55 parents' experiences of having a premature baby, and
- a survey of UK neonatal units to identify current practice.

Using the POPPY findings, the NCT and Bliss are producing a poster and easy-to-read leaflet promoting skin-to-skin care, available in English, Polish, Urdu, French and Portuguese, and a booklet for parents on their experiences in the neonatal unit and emotional needs. These will be sent to you in October.

If you would like to discuss the POPPY research please contact either the NCT or Bliss – at policyresearch@nct.org.uk or info@bliss.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,



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