Family Presence in Paediatric and Neonatal Units across Europe

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Work in progress – not yet completed
Postal survey

• 16 countries responded (October 2013)

Key areas:
• Kind of family presence
• Time permitted
• Medical interventions
• Anaesthetic/peri-operative area
• Facilities for parents and family members
• Participation in nursing & health care tasks
Areas

- **Special care baby units**
  Special care is defined as that provided for babies who could not reasonably be looked after at home by their mother. Babies receiving special care may need to have their breathing and heart rate monitored, be fed through a tube, supplied with extra oxygen or treated for jaundice; this category also includes babies who are recovering from more specialist treatment before they can be discharged.

- **Neonatal intensive care**

- **Paediatric wards**

- **Paediatric intensive care**

Work in progress – not yet completed
Countries that have responded

- Armenia
- Austria
- Cyprus
- Denmark
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Italy
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Portugal
- Serbia
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
Countries not responded

- Belgium
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Estonia
- Finland
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxemburg

- Malta
- Macedonia
- Poland
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain

Work in progress – not yet completed
Parental presence

- **Special care**
  - Yes = 16
  - Armenia, Austria, Cyprus, Denmark*, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK

- **Neonatal intensive care**
  - Yes = 15
  - Armenia, Austria, Cyprus, Denmark*, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK
  - No = 1
  - Greece - set visiting times for parents only 10-12 and 6-8pm

Work in progress – not yet completed
Parental presence

• Paediatric wards

  Yes = 16
  Armenia, Austria, Cyprus, Denmark*, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK

• Paediatric intensive care

  Yes = 14
  Armenia, Austria, Cyprus, Denmark*, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK

  No = 2
  Greece - set visiting times for parents only 10-12 and 6-8pm; Serbia

Work in progress – not yet completed
Other family member presence
grandparents and siblings

- **Special care**
  - Yes = 12
    - Armenia, Austria, Denmark*, France, Germany, Greece, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, UK
  - No = 4
    - Cyprus, Italy, Serbia, Turkey

- **Neonatal intensive care**
  - Yes = 8
    - Denmark*, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, UK
  - No = 8
    - Armenia, Austria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Serbia, Turkey

_WORK IN PROGRESS – NOT YET COMPLETED_
Other family member presence
grandparents and siblings

- **Paediatric wards**
  - Yes = 12
  - Cyprus, Denmark*, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, UK
  - No = 4
  - Armenia, Austria, France, Turkey

- **Paediatric intensive care**
  - Yes = 8
  - Denmark*, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, UK
  - No = 8
  - Armenia, Austria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Serbia, Turkey

- The presence of grandparents and siblings is by exception in special situations (Italy)
- Grandparents are allowed to be there if parents are unable to be there (France)
- The presence of siblings is generally only permitted if they are 12 years old, with grandparents present in substitution of parents during visiting hours (Italy)
- In the daytime or sometimes when it is needed for parents wellbeing (Sweden)
- No more than 2 persons in PICU and NICU (Switzerland)

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**Work in progress**

- not yet completed
24 hours a day

• Neonatal Units
  Parents only = 9
  Armenia, Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey
  Parents and family members = 4
  Denmark*, Netherlands, Portugal, UK*

• Paediatric wards
  Parents only = 8
  Armenia, Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Serbia, Sweden, Turkey
  Parents and family members = 7
  Cyprus, Denmark*, Greece, Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland, UK*

A few hours for parents only (Cyprus)
Parents will always be present if others come (Netherlands)
Parents and siblings only (UK)
Policy is it should not disturb the silent sleeping time on the ward. So it also depends if there are more children in one room then there might be restrictions (Netherlands)

Work in progress – not yet completed
Restrictions

• **Neonatal intensive care**
  - **Yes = 12**
    - Armenia, Cyprus, Denmark*, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK*
  - **No = 2**
    - Austria, Portugal

  Restrictions dependent on condition and situation (Germany)

  Sometimes, depending on the child’s health status (Sweden)

  Others are only allowed in together with the parents and not more than two other people at the same time (Netherlands)

• **Paediatric intensive care**
  - **Yes = 12**
    - Armenia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK*
  - **No = 3**
    - Austria, Denmark*, Portugal

  Only 2 persons in special care, NICU & PICU (Switzerland)

  Daytime for parents only in PICU and NICU (Italy)

  Most units access for family members for short visits (Denmark)

Work in progress – not yet completed
Restrictions

• **Special Care baby units**
  
  **Yes = 12**
  Armenia, Cyprus, Denmark*, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, UK*

  **No = 3**
  Austria, Portugal, Sweden,

  *Restrictions dependent on the babies condition and situation (Germany)*

  *In most units there is limited visiting and siblings must be healthy (Denmark)*

  *Hand hygiene (Greece)*

• **Paediatric wards**
  
  **Yes = 5**
  Germany, Netherlands, Serbia, Turkey, UK*

  **No = 10**
  Armenia, Austria, Cyprus, Denmark*, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland

  *During resuscitation, admit new patient in the unit or do special implications for example insert chest drain. (Turkey)*

  *Parents and siblings only (UK)*

  *Parents can decide who will accompany them and access is unrestricted (Netherlands)*

  *Work in progress – not yet completed*
Presence during medical rounds

• **Special care baby units**
  
  Yes = 13
  
  Austria, Denmark*, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK*

  No = 3
  
  Armenia, Cyprus, Serbia

• **Neonatal intensive care**

  Yes = 10
  
  Denmark*, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK*

  No = 6
  
  Armenia, Austria, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Serbia

Work in progress – not yet completed
Presence during medical rounds

• Paediatric wards
  
  Yes = 15
  Austria, Cyprus, Denmark*, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK*

  No = 1
  Armenia,

• Paediatric intensive care
  
  Yes = 11
  Austria, Denmark*, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK*

  No = 5
  Armenia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Serbia

Work in progress – not yet completed
Presence during medication rounds

• **Special care**
  - *Yes* = 13
    Austria, Denmark*, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK
  - *No* = 3
    Armenia, Cyprus, Serbia

• **Neonatal intensive care**
  - *Yes* = 12
    Austria, Denmark*, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK
  - *No* = 4
    Armenia, Cyprus, Greece, Serbia

*Work in progress – not yet completed*
Presence during medication rounds

• **Paediatric wards**
  
  **Yes = 15**
  Austria, Cyprus, Denmark*, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK
  
  **No = 1**
  Armenia,

• **Paediatric intensive care**
  
  **Yes = 12**
  Austria, Denmark*, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK
  
  **No = 5**
  Armenia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Serbia

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*Work in progress – not yet completed*
Presence during invasive procedures

- **Special care**
  
  *Yes = 11*
  
  Austria, Denmark*, France, Germany, Greece, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, UK*

  *No = 5*
  
  Armenia, Cyprus, Italy, Serbia, Turkey

- **Neonatal intensive care**

  *Yes = 10*
  
  Austria, Denmark*, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, UK*

  *No = 6*
  
  Armenia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Serbia, Turkey

Work in progress – not yet completed
Presence during invasive procedures

- **Paediatric wards**
  
  Yes = 13
  Austria, Denmark*, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, UK

  No = 3
  Armenia, Cyprus, Turkey

- **Paediatric intensive care**
  
  Yes = 10
  Austria, Denmark*, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, UK*

  No = 6
  Armenia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Serbia, Turkey

Work in progress – not yet completed
Presence during staff handover

• **Special care**
  
  **Yes = 8**
  Austria, Denmark*, Netherlands, Norway*, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, UK*
  
  **No = 7**
  Armenia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Turkey

• **Neonatal intensive care**
  
  **Yes = 7**
  Denmark*, Netherlands, Norway*, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, UK*
  
  **No = 9**
  Armenia, Austria, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Serbia, Turkey

Work in progress – not yet completed
Presence during staff handover

• Paediatric wards
  Yes = 10
  Austria, Cyprus, Denmark*, Italy, Netherlands, Norway*, Portugal, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, UK*
  No = 5
  Armenia, France, Germany, Greece, Turkey

• Paediatric intensive care
  Yes = 7
  Denmark*, Netherlands, Norway*, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, UK*
  No = 9
  Armenia, Austria, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Serbia, Turkey

Work in progress – not yet completed
Presence during resuscitation

• Special care
  Yes = 6
  Denmark*, Netherlands, Norway*, Portugal, Switzerland, UK
  No = 10
  Armenia, Austria, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Serbia, Sweden, Turkey

• Neonatal intensive care
  Yes = 6
  Denmark*, Netherlands, Norway*, Portugal, Switzerland, UK*
  No = 10
  Armenia, Austria, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Serbia, Sweden, Turkey

Work in progress – not yet completed
Presence during resuscitation

• Paediatric wards
  Yes = 6  
  Denmark*, Netherlands, Norway*, Portugal, Switzerland, UK
  No = 10  
  Armenia, Austria, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Serbia, Sweden, Turkey

• Paediatric intensive care
  Yes = 6  
  Denmark*, Netherlands, Norway*, Portugal, Switzerland, UK*
  No = 10  
  Armenia, Austria, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Serbia, Sweden, Turkey

Work in progress – not yet completed
Anaesthetic/peri-operative

No = 5
Armenia, Austria, Cyprus, France, Serbia

Yes = 11
Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK

Restrictions
• Only one parent is allowed to accompany their child
• Variations depending on local hospital rules such as parents being allowed to stay until the child is transferred to the nurses in the anaesthetic area
• When the surgical procedure is urgent or if the patient is less than six months old
• There are variations between hospitals as to when parents say goodbye but generally parents are there until the child goes to sleep
• There is a defined time that parents are able to stay with their child

Work in progress – not yet completed
## Facilities for parents to sleep

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Special care</th>
<th>NICU</th>
<th>Paediatric ward</th>
<th>PICU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beds/recliner chairs</strong></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Single rooms</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Double rooms</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family rooms</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family centre/flats prior to discharge</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Nursing/health care tasks parents not allowed to undertake

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armenia, Austria</td>
<td>Parents are not allowed to undertake nursing or health care related tasks for their baby/child.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Parents are not allowed to undertake certain nursing or health care related tasks such as enteral feeding for a premature baby.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Some procedures require professional knowledge and cannot be handled by parents, for example: IV medication, monitoring equipment, sterile procedures, handling of special instruments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Parents are not allowed to undertake certain nursing or health care related tasks such as enteral feeding for a premature baby.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Parents are not allowed to administer medication by intravenous infusion or injection. There are however exceptions when the child is chronically ill and the parents are instructed and trained to do injections, e.g. when the child has insulin-dependent diabetes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Parents are not allowed to undertake nursing and health care tasks. Most units are working towards parents being able to undertake any health care task they might want to do following appropriate training to do so correctly.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Work in progress – not yet completed*
Nursing/health care tasks parents not allowed to undertake

There are no nursing or health care tasks which parents might not be allowed to undertake for their baby/child. **Greece, Italy, Switzerland, Serbia, Turkey, UK**

Parents and not allowed to undertake medical procedures for their baby/child. **Sweden**

Nursing and health care tasks i.e. medical procedures will be undertaken by a doctor or a nurse. The parents’ role will be to support the child. If the parents are trained under supervision to do certain medical tasks there are set procedures that are followed to assure that the parents can undertake and wish to do so. **Netherlands**

Depends on the parent and the child **UK**

Work in progress – not yet completed
There are no nursing or health care tasks parents might not be allowed to undertake for their baby/child in Oslo, Drammen and Tromsø. While in Levanger and Trondheim generally staff will perform all medical treatments, with parents able to contribute with feeding and other care tasks. Staff discuss with parents who will perform the different tasks for the child. Although there are restrictions which apply in Tromsø concerning invasive procedures and medical treatments, in some cases training will be given to parents to perform certain procedures.

Norway

There are nursing and health care tasks parents might not be allowed to undertake for their baby/child. Parents are not allowed to undertake activities that they have not prepared to do. In the care of a child with a chronic disease nurses will establish learning, instruction and training programs to enable the parents, if they want, to take care of their child in the new status of health.

Portugal
**Same rules for staff and parents about:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hygiene</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to clinical areas</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privacy</td>
<td>12.5*</td>
<td>3.5*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Privacy**
The right of an individual to keep oneself and oneself information concealed or hidden from the unauthorised access and view of others. Definitions of privacy include: the capacity to be physically alone (solitude); to be free from physical interference, threat or unwanted touching; or to avoid being seen or overheard in particular contexts. Privacy also refers to the capacity to control when, how and to what degree information about oneself is communicated to others.

*Work in progress – not yet completed*
Access to clinical areas
• parents do not have access to the medicine room so as to limit distractions
• staff office because there is personal data, cabinets with clean and sterile utensils,
• staff rooms because the staff need social togetherness.

Privacy
Parents do not have the same degree of privacy as staff because staff have the right to enter patient rooms at anytime.

There could be restrictions to gaining access to some clinical areas depending on individual hospitals. Likewise the same situation relates to privacy.

Different rules for getting access to clinical areas and privacy. For example parents are not allowed in the ward kitchen.

Work in progress – not yet completed
## Facilities for those staying

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parents/family room in the hospital with facilities for cooking, making drinks, watching TV</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accommodation close to the hospital</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discounted</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to the cafeteria/restaurant</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discounted</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*depends on age of child
*depends on prescription condition & insurance cover
*depends on national laws

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Work in progress – not yet completed
Next steps: to discuss

- Follow-up missing countries
- Position statement?
- Key points?

Work in progress – not yet completed
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