

Module 5: Special Care Unit

In March 2016, bump2babe sent a comprehensive survey to the 19 maternity hospitals/units and 2 midwifery-led units in Ireland. Responses were returned between March 2016 and May 2017 and can be found on the website www.bump2babe.ie. Private Midwives completed the same survey documents in May 2017 and we have presented them here.

The information provided here is as was provided to us Private Midwives but please check with your caregiver to see if there have been any recent changes to services, policies or practices.

Blank spaces indicate no information was provided.

	County	
	Unit or hospital name	Private Midwives Ireland
Person completing the survey	Name	Liz Halliday
	Title	Deputy Head of Midwifery
	Contact details and working hours (in case we need to contact you for clarification)	liz@privatemidwives.com
Does the hospital have a special care baby unit (SCBU)?	Yes/No	N/A
	Number of cots in the SCBU	
Does the hospital have a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU)?	Yes/No	
	Number of cots in the NICU	
Number of midwives/nurses in the special care units	SCBU	
	NICU	
Percentage of these midwives/nurses that hold a qualification in neonatal care	Midwives	
	Nurses	
Unit policy/guideline on family members visiting SCBU	Parents	
	Siblings	
	Grandparents	
	Other family	
Unit policy/guideline on family members visiting NICU	Parents	
	Siblings	
	Grandparents	
	Other family	

Is there a room where parents can stay overnight?	Yes/No	
	Please give details	
	How is skin-to-skin contact encouraged in SCBU/NICU?	
Is kangaroo care practised in SCBU/NICU?	Yes/No	
	Circumstances under which it is encouraged and frequency advised	
Is baby-led feeding practised?	Yes	
	Decided on individual basis	
	No	
	Additional comment	
	How and when is non-nutritive sucking encouraged?	
	How is emotional/psychological/developmental support offered to babies in SCBU/NICU (NIDCAP programme)	
	How is emotional/psychological support offered to parents of babies in the SCBU / NICU	
	What communication is there between the postnatal ward & NICU/SCBU to ensure mothers who are separated from their babies are supported? Please include practical details such as ensuring meals are not missed etc.	
Is additional support given in the case of multiple births?	Yes/No	
	If Yes, please give details	
	Support given to women who are discharged before their baby	
	Does the unit facilitate parent support groups?	
What facilities are there for parents to eat when visiting their baby/babies in SCBU/NICU? Please specify any arrangements for free/subsidised food.	Hot food 24/7 in restaurant	
	Hot food, limited times in restaurant	
	Microwave available	
	Tea/coffee facilities	
	Other (including details of any cooking facilities)	

	How are parents assisted with other costs (e.g. parking) when visiting their baby/babies in SCBU/NICU?	
Does the unit have information leaflets available for parents on topics relating to special care baby units?	Yes/No	
	Please list topics and languages	
Supports provided to breastfeeding women whose babies are in SCBU/NICU	Training in hand expression	
	Training in the use of pumps	
	Free pump accessories kit provided	
	Free sterile breastmilk containers provided	
	Storage facilities for milk	
	Seating to facilitate pumping at their baby's bedside	
	Quiet, comfortable room to express in	
	Access to drinking water	
	Access (on some shifts) to an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC)	
	Access (24 hours) to an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC)	
	Support to initiate milk supply within 6 hours of birth	
	Support for establishing and maintaining milk supply	
	Access to free or subsidised meals (24 hours) if mother has been discharged	
	Loan of a pump for home use	
Other, please specify	24-hour breastfeeding support telephone number	
	If breast milk pumps are available, what type (manual/electric, single/double, hospital grade etc.) does the unit have and how many of each type?	
	Specific support provided for a breastfeeding woman who is discharged before her baby	Psychological support and at home postnatal care for mother

Does the unit use donated human breast milk from the milk bank?	Yes	
	At maternal request	
	No	
	Additional comment including indications for use	
Are other liquids used to supplement the mother's breast milk?	Yes/No	
	If Yes, please give details	
	Indications for use of human milk fortifier	
If a supplement is given (donated breast milk, artificial milk or fortifier in EBM), is consent sought from parents?	Always	
	Mostly	
	Sometimes	
	Rarely	
	Never	
	Additional comment	
	What methods are used to give babies these feeds?	
	Percentage of staff educated on paced bottle feeding and cup feeding	
	Description of the education that SCBU/NICU staff undergo to promote, support and protect breastfeeding (please list topics, course duration, frequency of updates and specify staff who undergo this training (doctors, midwives, nurses etc.))	
Percentage of SCBU/NICU staff who are educated in this way	Midwives	
	Nurses	
	Doctors	
	Other staff	