

PROPOSAL FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF SOUND-BLOCKING HEADPHONES FOR PARENTS DURING WARD ROUNDS

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BACKGROUND

Family Centred Care (FCC) forms an integral part of the provision of optimal neonatal care within the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Active involvement and a collaborative, inclusive environment is of the utmost importance. Allowing parents 24/7 access to the cot side forms one of the principles of FCC. In order to maintain confidentiality of other patients during ward rounds parents are very often asked to leave the unit once their baby has been discussed.

AIMS

The introduction of sound blocking headphones for parental use during rounds.

METHODS

Single centre, survey based, quasi-experimental research study within Unit 8. Feedback will be harvested using anonymous survey. Headphones will be cleaned between use as per hospital infection control policy.

RESULTS

This initiative will result in true 24/7 access to the cot side for parents.

Effective and innovative way to allow confidentiality and limit parental separation.

Reduce stress, anxiety and frustration for parents.

Headphones recommended are Ventitex pit-radio Electronic Ear Defenders which are completely soundproof.

RESULTS



CONCLUSION

Depending on the acuity and population of Unit 8, ward rounds do not typically operated to a fixed schedule and can take a variable amount of time. This makes it difficult for parents to plan around, in particular, breastfeeding mothers. The use of sound-blocking headphones can allow parents to remain at the cot side without compromise patient confidentiality.



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