

01 April 2026

Family Integrated Care with Neonatal Services

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 regarding the implementation and evaluation of Family Integrated Care (FICare) within your neonatal services.

For hospitals providing neonatal or SCBU services, please could you provide the following:

1. Confirmation of whether Family Integrated Care (FICare) is currently implemented in your neonatal unit(s), and if so, the date of initial implementation.

Yes, March 2023.

2. Copies of any internal policies, protocols, or guidance documents relating to FICare.

See attached.

3. Details of any staff training programmes or materials used to support FICare delivery.

FINE training. In house training for all new staff during induction by Education team. In house training updates at Band 5 and Band 6 development days provided by Education Team and Allied Health Professional (AHP) Team. 2-minute bitesize training provided at the bedside by AHP team. Training videos via NEO Sim App. Academic teaching via Qualified in Speciality teaching at Queens University Belfast. Access to teaching/educational information for all NI NNUs via Futures NHS. FICare Padlet - <https://padlet.com/NNNIFiCare/neonatal-family-integrated-care-2amcnmg1m8szxhu>

4. Details of any staff training programmes or materials used to support FICare delivery relating to older siblings.

No information recorded.

5. Any audit reports, evaluations, or outcome data relating to the effectiveness or impact of FICare on neonatal care or family experience.

Not collated by Belfast Trust

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6. If FICare is not currently implemented, please indicate whether there are plans or discussions underway to introduce it.

N/A

In addition (and if relevant), please could the hospital provide information on its policies or regulations regarding parental and sibling access to babies receiving neonatal care:

1. Are both parents and siblings permitted to spend time with babies in neonatal care units?

Parents have open access 24/7, with siblings present after 14:00

See attached page from Parent Information Booklet

2. Are there any time restrictions or limitations on how long parents or siblings may spend with babies in neonatal care?

No restrictions on parent time spent in unit. Sibling restriction applies during seasonal outbreaks such as RSV; siblings can still attend the unit but must be supervised in the family room. Families are also supported by grandparents daily and two additional nominated support persons over the age of 18 years. Access arrangements can be waived in exceptional circumstances. NNNI currently assessing regional practices with aim to standardise in all NNUs in NI.

See attached page from Parent Information Booklet

3. Does the hospital have any policies or practices to ensure that babies from multiple births (e.g. twins, triplets) receive equal parental contact time compared to singleton babies?

See attached page from Parent Information Booklet

If any of the requested information is exempt from disclosure, please provide a brief explanation of the exemption applied under the relevant provisions of the Act. I would prefer to receive the information electronically, via email text or PDF. If you require any clarification of this request, please do not hesitate to contact me.