

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

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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

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Countries not responded

- **Belgium**
- **Croatia**
- **Czech Republic**
- **Estonia**
- **Finland**
- **Hungary**
- **Iceland**
- **Ireland**
- **Latvia**
- **Lithuania**
- **Luxemburg**
- **Malta**
- **Macedonia**
- **Poland**
- **Romania**
- **Slovakia**
- **Slovenia**
- **Spain**

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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

At prescribed times
(Greece)

In some hospitals siblings
need to be over 14 years
(Austria)

Armenia, Austria, Denmark*, France, Germany, Greece, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal,
Sweden, Switzerland, UK

No = 4

Cyprus, Italy, Serbia, Turkey,

Siblings not allowed on unit if
sick otherwise open door policy
(Norway)

- **Neonatal intensive care**

Yes = 8

While grandparents are allowed to visit
when the newborn is unwell, brothers
and sisters are able to visit if the health
of the baby is critical (France)

Denmark*, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, UK

No = 8

Armenia, Austria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Serbia, Turkey

Siblings are only allowed when it
has been proven that they have no
infections (Germany)

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

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)

- **Paediatric intensive care**

Yes = 8

Denmark*, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, UK

No = 8

Armenia, Austria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Serbia, Turkey

In the daytime or sometimes when it is needed for parents wellbeing (Sweden)

No more than 2 persons in PICU and NICU (Switzerland)

The presence of grandparents and siblings is by exception in special situations (Italy)

in progress – not yet completed

24 hours a day

- **Neonatal Units**

Parents only = 9

Armenia, Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey

A few hours for
parents only (Cyprus)

Parents and family members = 4

Denmark*, Netherlands, Portugal, UK*

Parents and siblings
only (UK)

Parents will always be
present if others come
(Netherlands)

- **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*

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*

Restrictions dependent on condition and situation (Germany)

No = 2

Austria, Portugal

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*

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

No = 3

Austria, Denmark*, Portugal

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*

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

Hand hygiene (Greece)

Restrictions dependent on the babies condition and situation (Germany)

No = 3

Austria, Portugal, Sweden,

- **Paediatric wards**

Yes = 5

Germany, Netherlands, Serbia, Turkey, UK*

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

Parents and siblings only (UK)

No = 10

Armenia, Austria, Cyprus, Denmark*, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland

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

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

	Special care	NICU	Paediatric ward	PICU
Beds/recliner chairs	14	10	15	10
Single rooms	9	5	9	6
Double rooms	5	5	7	5
Family rooms	6	5	5	3
Family centre/flats prior to discharge	8		5	1

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Nursing/health care tasks parents not allowed to undertake

Parents are not allowed to undertake nursing or health care related tasks for their baby/child.

Armenia, Austria

Parents are not allowed to undertake certain nursing or health care related tasks such as enteral feeding for a premature baby

France

Some procedures require professional knowledge and cannot be handled by parents, for example: IV medication, monitoring equipment, sterile procedures, handling of special instruments.

Denmark

Parents are able 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.

Denmark

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.

Germany

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 are not allowed to undertake medical procedures for their baby/child.

Sweden

Depends on the parent and the child
UK

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

Work in progress – not yet completed

Nursing/health care tasks parents not allowed to undertake

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

Work in progress – not yet completed

Same rules for staff and parents about:

	Yes	No
Hygiene	16	
Access to clinical areas	7	9
Privacy	12.5*	3.5*

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.

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Comments

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.

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

Privacy

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

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

	Yes	Total	
Parents/family room in the hospital with facilities for cooking, making drinks, watching TV	12	12	
Accommodation close to the hospital	4		*depends on age of child
Free	2.5		*depends on prescription condition & insurance cover
Discounted	6.5		
<i>Mixed</i>	1	11	*depends on national laws
Access to the cafeteria/restaurant	6		*depends on age of child
Free	1		*depends on prescription condition & insurance cover
Discounted	5		
<i>Mixed</i>	1	13	*depends on national laws

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Next steps: to discuss

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

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