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Does the intervention of a community neonatal service, actually reduce hospital readmission? A case study of nasogastric tube fed infant over a 12 months' period

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Every year our neonatal unit discharges at least 6 infants on nasogastric tube feeding, in order to reduce length of stay and promote parent-infant bonding in a relaxed environment. Although, in 2015 one infant proved that the input of a community neonatal service can reduce length of stay, and also reduce readmission to the children's ward. (According to The Code-Nursing and Midwifery Council, 2015 the infant name has been changed and will be referred as summer). Summer was born in a level 3 hospital at full term and at examination was diagnosed with Laryngomalacia and severe hypotonic, Summer was transferred to a local level 2 hospital for continuity of care, however after a total of 2 weeks in hospital, a discharge planning meeting was done to discuss Summer's discharge including parental teaching for nasogastric tube feeding. Throughout, the 12 months' period that summer received support from the community neonatal nursing team; summer never attended A&E and also never was readmitted in the children ward. Summer's case study has proved that by having a Community Neonatal Service would reduce length of stay and reduce hospital readmission. In conclusion, it is important to recognize that this can only be achievable when there are other health professionals to ensure that the focus of the care is based on the infant's needs and unlimited parental support.

Biography

Tendai Nzirawa completed undergraduate Diploma in Nursing studies (Adult) in 2005 (City University, London). She completed Bachelor of Science with Honours in Nursing Studies (Neonatal Care) in 2012 (City University, London). Currently, she is studying a Master of Science in Nursing Studies (Neonatal Care) London Southbank University, London. Since 2010, she has been involved in setting up and running a Neonatal Parent Support group with other health professionals. In 2012, she participated at the European academy of Pediatric Societies, Turkey (Poster Presentation) – The experiences of parents of infants on Home Oxygen.

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