

Call to Action for Newborn Health



Thanks for your support



The **Call to Action for Newborn Health** and the launch of **Caring for Tomorrow: EFCNI White Paper on Maternal and Newborn Health and Aftercare Services in Europe** are supported by an educational grant from Abbott.

Call to Action for Newborn Health

We call on EU and national policy makers, payers, patient and parents' organisations, healthcare professionals, academics, industry and the public to unite and work in partnership to ensure that each baby born in the EU has the best possible start in life. In order to meet these goals, policy makers should:



- 1. Recognise maternal and newborn care as a top public health priority** and integrate both into ongoing European and national strategies on public health, chronic conditions, healthy ageing and research.
- 2. Establish and implement targeted national strategies** for minimising pregnancy risks on the basis of best practice and with the advice of interdisciplinary taskforces.
- 3. Guarantee that all newborns have equal access to high-quality care; that high-risk newborns in particular receive appropriate specialised services and aftercare programmes.** This requires early diagnosis, improved standards of care with documented medical follow-up and optimal healthcare services specifically aimed at preterm and high-risk newborns tackling chronic diseases.
- 4. Ensure appropriate and continuous education and training for all healthcare professionals** working in pre-conception, maternity, newborn care and aftercare fields. The quality of training should be raised and, where appropriate, harmonised across Member States so as to promote equal standards of care for all newborns.
- 5. Encourage the uptake of a family-centred approach and developmental care by neonatal hospital units** to help alleviate newborn and parental stress and anxiety and to promote parenting roles both in the hospital and after discharge.
- 6. Provide for equal and easy access to full information, counselling, education and, if necessary, training of (expecting) parents** on pre-conception and maternal issues, preterm and newborn care, early parenthood and aftercare.
- 7. Promote the right of parents to have access to adequate psychological and social care and support** systems in order to provide a stable environment for the birth and care of newborns into their childhood.
- 8. Launch wide scale public health awareness campaigns** around healthy pregnancy, the growing incidence of prematurity and the associated risks.
- 9. Establish harmonised and comparable European data sets for maternal health outcomes and preterm birth**, the collection of which should be founded on the basis of common definitions and measurement criteria to allow for comprehensive study and comparative analysis and to monitor and improve health outcomes.
- 10. Provide funding for research on maternal and newborn health and aftercare** which aims to prevent preterm birth and reduce the number of chronic illnesses suffered by babies born prematurely.



You can give preterm babies your voice on www.ene-mene-mini.eu