

## Topic guides for qualitative interviews and focus group discussions with parents and healthcare practitioners

### **Topic guide for interviews/focus group discussions with parents of babies in neonatal units**

1. Please tell me about your babies.
2. Please tell me about feeding your baby – especially at the stage when your baby was starting to take feeds by mouth (breast or bottle or cup).
3. How do you plan to /or how do you feed your baby at home?
4. When your babies were in the neonatal unit, how did you know when and how much to feed you baby?
5. What did you like about feeding your baby?
6. Were you worried /did you not like about feeding your baby?
7. What support did you get and what was most helpful?
8. Did you have all the information you needed and where did you get the information, what sources did you find most useful – if not what else would you have liked to know?
9. What do you think about cue-based feeding/feeding babies when they show signs of being hungry and that they are ready to feed?
10. What do you think parents need to know to be able to feed their babies when they show signs of being hungry and that they are ready to feed?
11. How would you like to be taught about or involved in feeding your baby' e.g. explanation by nurse, watching other parents and babies, having nurses demonstrate feeding your baby with a bottle/cup, films you can watch at home?
12. Is there anything else you think we need to consider when we develop a plan for cue-based feeding in neonatal units?

### **Topic guide for focus group discussions with staff in neonatal units**

#### **Questions to guide interview**

1. Tell me about the type of babies you care for on your unit?
2. What is your approach to managing feeding when babies are ready to transition from tube feeding to oral feeding and is this consistent across all staff in the unit?

3. How do you decide when to offer a baby a tube feed vs a feed by mouth?
4. What do you view as the biggest challenges for babies making the transition from tube to oral feeding on a neonatal unit?
5. How do you currently support parents whose babies are ready to transition from tube feeding to oral feeding?
6. What experience do you have of cue-based feeding?
7. What do you know about/understand what is meant by cue-based/responsive feeding for babies who are transitioning from tube to oral feeding in neonatal units?
8. What are the important cues?
9. Are there any assessment tools/indicators of which babies are suitable for cue-based feeding?
10. What do you think are the advantages of cue-based feedings?
11. Do you have any concerns about cue-based feeding (including clinical safety/adverse events)?
12. How do you think parents would feel about cue-based feeding?
13. What would have to happen for cue-based feeding to be introduced in your unit/ what are the barriers and enablers to cue-based feeding?
14. How confident would you feel to support parents in cue-based feeding?
15. What training do the staff need to introduce cue-based feeding and how should it be delivered?
16. Which staff will or should be involved in the practice of cue-based feeding?