

# Parental perception of prematurity and Early Intervention Program in KKH neonatal units

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## INTRODUCTION

With increasing survival of premature babies as early as 23 weeks gestation age, the focus has shifted from efficacy of early intervention (EI) towards maximising outcomes for the child. It is perceived that knowledge and service satisfaction would translate to better compliance, thus improving a child's outcome.

## AIMS

EI has never been investigated from a parent's perspective and thus, this study aims to explore parental perception of prematurity and EI in KKH neonatal units. There has been no published research looking at this phenomenon in Singapore

## METHODOLOGY

### Sampling

Purposeful sampling from a very low birth weight follow-up clinic. Once consented, interviews were arranged.

### Interviews

Audio-recorded semi-structured interviews were carried out at the participants' respective homes.

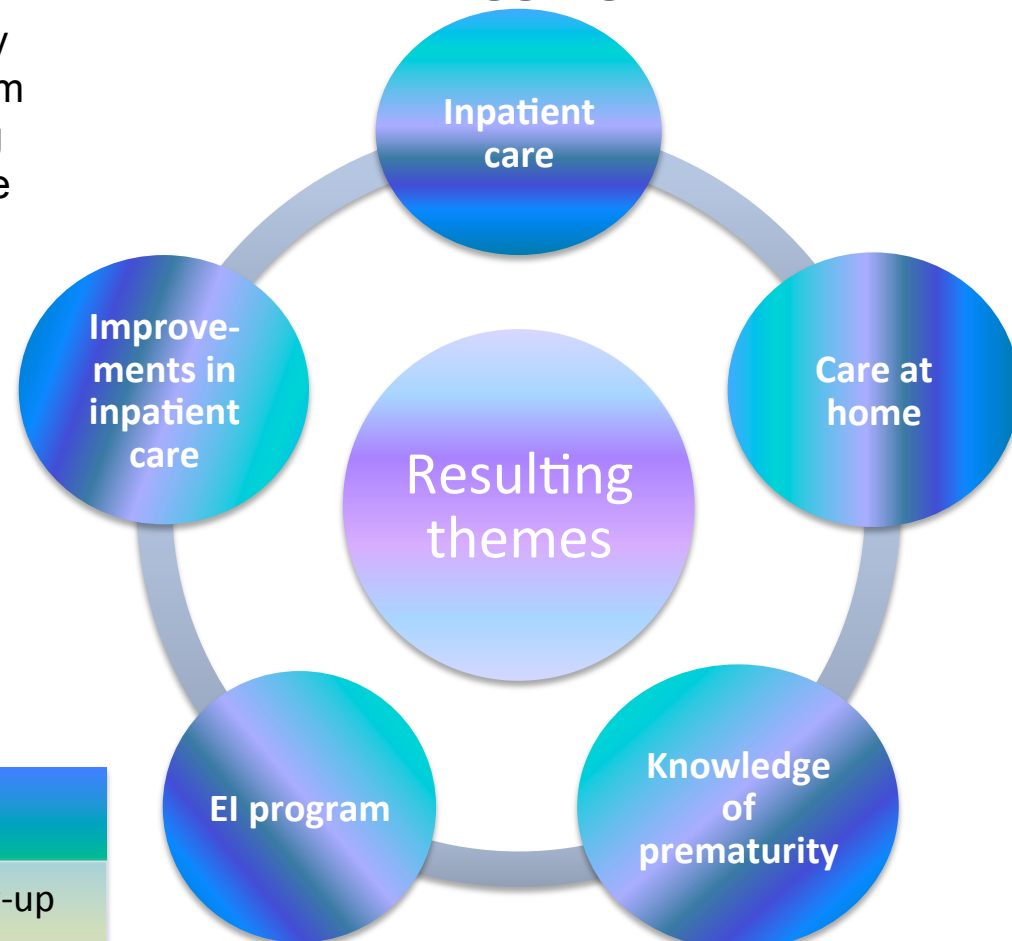
### Data collection

Interviews were transcribed verbatim, coded and analysed using thematic analysis.	Recruitment was terminated when saturation was reached.	There was a total of 6 parents.
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### Data analysis

Codes were grouped and themes and subthemes were identified to create overarching themes.	Consolidation across all interviews ensure consistency.
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## RESULTS



These five themes explored service delivery in the neonatal units, transition from hospital to home, knowledge and awareness of prematurity and EI as well as expectations of parents.

While parents find nursing care helpful, most are unaware of physiotherapy and EI, realising its importance only during outpatient appointments.

Although medical concerns still top as priority, parents wished for more parental involvement in the developmental care of their infant.

## CONCLUSION

Parents were generally satisfied with the neonatal care that KKH provided but most were unaware of the EI program as well as its importance.

In conclusion, more efforts could be put in to raise awareness of EI and their implications and to get parents to be more involved in the developmental care of their infant.