Table A: Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative research (COREQ): a 32-item
Fathers’ roles in supporting breastfeeding of preterm infants in the neonatal intensive
care unit: a qualitative study.

Domain 1: Research team and reflexivity
Personal Characteristics
1. Interviewer/facilitator: Magdalini Dargentas
2. Credentials: Psychologist, PhD
3. Occupation: Researcher and Senior Lecturer in social psychology
4. Gender: female
5. Experience and training: Doctoral and post-doctoral training in qualitative research;
training in Alceste software analysis
Relationship with participants: none prior the research
6. Relationship established: direct contact with participants in the NICU
   Was a relationship established prior to study commencement? Only for scheduling the interview
7. Participant knowledge of the interviewer
   What did the participants know about the researcher? e.g. personal goals, reasons for doing the research: Explanation of the goals of the research at the beginning of the interview;
   written information
8. Interviewer characteristics What characteristics were reported about the interviewer/facilitator? e.g. Bias, assumptions, reasons and interests in the research topic
   Kind of involvement in the study, profession and explanation of the profession

Domain 2: study design
Theoretical framework
9. Methodological orientation and Theory
   What methodological orientation was stated to underpin the study? grounded theory and social representations theory
Participant selection:
10. Sampling How were participants selected? e.g. purposive, convenience, consecutive, snowball purposive (see the paper)
11. Method of approach How were participants approached? e.g. face-to-face, telephone, mail, email face-to-face and telephone if necessary
12. Sample size How many participants were in the study? 20
13. Non-participation How many people refused to participate or dropped out? Reasons? 24 refused; main reasons: lack of time, unavailable, not used to participate to interview
Setting
14. Setting of data collection Where was the data collected? In the NICU, in a separate room
15. Presence of non-participants Was anyone else present besides the participants and researchers? Research nurse (during some interviews)
16. Description of sample What are the important characteristics of the sample? Fathers were eligible for this study if they spoke French and if their NB was born before 35 weeks of gestation, was 7 to 30 days old at inclusion, and had no recent severe medical deterioration.
Data collection
17. Interview guide Were questions, prompts, guides provided by the authors? Was it pilot tested? See the interview guide
18. Repeat interviews Were repeat interviews carried out? If yes, how many? Sometimes, twice.
19. Audio/visual recording Audio recording
20. Field notes Were field notes made during and/or after the interview or focus group? Field notes were made during the interview.
21. Duration What was the duration of the interviews or focus group? The mean duration of interviews was 2 hours.
22. Data saturation Was data saturation discussed? Data saturation was discussed.
23. Transcripts returned Were transcripts returned to participants for comment and/or correction? No, but in a later stage of our research results will be presented to some fathers and will be discussed by them in a focus group.

Domain 3: analysis and findings
Data analysis
24. Number of data coders How many data coders coded the data? One single analyst. With the Alceste software, researcher does not code the data; these are automatically analysed by the software (see the paper). Nevertheless, the researcher has to check the validity of the analysis, and to interpret the results. The interpretation process was performed mainly by two of us.
25. Description of the coding tree Did authors provide a description of the coding tree? The Alceste results are detailed in the paper (descending hierarchical cluster and results of classes), see the paper.
26. Derivation of themes Were themes identified in advance or derived from the data? With the Alceste software, topics which were described and discussed in our paper are derived from the Alceste results.
27. Software What software, if applicable, was used to manage the data? Alceste®
28. Participant checking Did participants provide feedback on the findings? See response to question 23.
Reporting
29. Quotations presented Were participant quotations presented to illustrate the themes / findings? Yes Was each quotation identified? e.g. participant number Yes
30. Data and findings consistent Was there consistency between the data presented and the findings? Yes
31. Clarity of major themes Were major themes clearly presented in the findings? Yes
32. Clarity of minor themes Is there a description of diverse cases or discussion of minor themes? Yes