

## Interview schedule

Opening statement: **This interview forms part of a larger study that aims to gain an understanding of the experiences and perceptions of fathers who attend the birth of their baby, especially when the baby has required resuscitation at birth and / or admission to a neonatal unit.**

**Within this interview I am particularly interested in your experience of situations when a sick / preterm baby is delivered, requires resuscitation at birth and / or admission to a neonatal unit, and the baby's father is present. Before consideration of key issues, can I clarify the following?**

**Job title / Qualifications / Length of time qualified / Length of time this post**

### KEY ISSUES TO EXPLORE

**There are a variety of situations that you might have experienced:**

- **The antenatal preparation of fathers (i.e. before labour has started) particularly if the birth of a sick / preterm baby is anticipated.**
- **Being at the delivery of a sick / preterm baby when the baby's father is also present.**
- **Being at the resuscitation of a newborn baby when the baby's father is also present.**
- **Being present when a baby is admitted to the neonatal unit when the baby's father is also present.**

**Which of the above do you have experience of?**

**When was the last time that you encountered each situation?**

*(check each individual situation)*

**So, for the purpose of this interview we'll be talking about you .....**

- *Being involved in the antenatal preparation of fathers (i.e. before labour has started) particularly if the birth of a sick / preterm baby is anticipated.*
- *Being at the delivery of a sick / preterm baby when the baby's father is also present.*
- *Being at the resuscitation of a newborn baby when the baby's father is also present.*
- *Being present when a baby is admitted to the neonatal unit when the baby's father is also present.*

**Can you recall an occasion you were involved with relating to .....**

*Follow up any specific information to clarify description of events.*

*Clarify participant's role in the situation – what did you do / say?*

*Why does this case particularly spring to mind?*

**Is there anything that you'd like to add, particularly regarding what happened to the father?**

*Follow up any specific information to clarify description of events.*

*Clarify participant's role in the situation – what did you do / say?*

*Do you know if the father wanted to be there?*

**Thinking back to that occasion, do you think that the situation went well or not as well as it could have done?**

*Why do you think this was the case?*

**What about the father in this case? – looking at it from his perspective – did it go well or not as well as it could have done?**

*Why do you think this was the case?*

**Can you recall a contrasting situation you were involved with, by that I mean one that didn't / did go well?– can you tell me about that?**

*Follow up any specific information to clarify description of events.*

*Clarify details / participant's role in the situation – what did you do / say?*

*What do you think were the key issues that made this situation different to the previous case?*

*Why does this case particularly spring to mind?*

**Is there anything that you'd like to add, particularly regarding what happened to the father?**

*Follow up any specific information to clarify description of events.*

*Clarify participant's role in the situation – what did you do / say?*

*From his perspective do you think that he'd say it went well or not as well as it could have done?*

*Clarify participant's role in the situation – what did you do / say?*

**What do you suppose fathers feel that they need in terms of information / support antenatally / prior to the delivery / resuscitation / admission of their baby?**

*On what basis do you say this?*

*In your experience, do you think this happens in reality?*

*Why does / doesn't this happen?*

*What do think are the issues that a health care professional should consider when supporting a father at this time?*

*Do you think that different fathers have different needs? – if so – how do you determine individual needs?*

*Which health care professional group do you think has ultimate responsibility for supporting fathers at this time?*

**What do you suppose fathers feel that they need in terms of information / support during the delivery / resuscitation / admission of their baby?**

*On what basis do you say this?*

*In your experience, do you think this happens in reality?*

*Why does / doesn't this happen?*

*What do you think are the issues that a health care professional should consider when supporting a father at this time?*

*Do you think that different fathers have different needs? – if so – how do you determine individual needs?*

*How do you determine if the father wants to be there?*

*Which health care professional group do you think has ultimate responsibility for supporting fathers at this time?*

**What do you suppose fathers feel that they need in terms of information / support after the delivery / resuscitation / admission of their baby?**

*On what basis do you say this?*

*What impact do you think being present at..... has on fathers?*

*In your experience, do you think this happens in reality?*

*Why does / doesn't this happen?*

*What do you think are the issues that a health care professional should consider when supporting a father at this time?*

*Do you think that different fathers have different needs? – if so – how do you determine individual needs?*

*Which health care professional group do you think has ultimate responsibility for supporting fathers at this time?*

**Can you tell me about the nature / extent of any educational preparation you've received regarding the provision of support specifically for fathers during delivery / resuscitation / admission to the neonatal unit?**

*Clarify details.*

*Have you participated in 'mock' incidents? For example: labour ward drill?).*

*Was it father / mother / parent focused?*

*Has this been adequate?*

*If no how do you now know what to do / say in these situations? What additional educational preparation do you feel you need?*

*Apart from more formal educational preparation, how else have you learned what to do / say in these situations?*

**We've talked quite a lot about the health care professional role when supporting fathers – I'd like now to ask you to think about the impact that carrying out this role has on you – can you tell me about that?**

*Positive / negative impact – particularly re: helping / supporting fathers.*

*Short & long-term effects.*

*Is this always the case or just sometimes?*

*If sometimes – what key factors trigger this effect on you?*

*Re: negative effects – how do you deal / cope with this?*

*In these situations is there anything that fathers could do to help you?*

**Do you have any suggestions about ways that hospitals / health care professionals could help fathers who experience the situations we've discussed?**

*Follow-up any specific issues that might have been raised earlier.*

*Does the hospital have policies / procedures / guidelines re: supporting / care of fathers? – if yes – clarify details – if not – why not? – do you think that there should be policies / procedures / guidelines in place?*

*What advice would you give to another health care professional who might be about to support a father in one of these situations for the first time?*

**Are there any other issues that you would like to raise in relation to these issues?**

**Can I end by asking some more information about yourself?**

**Age / How would you describe your ethnicity /**

**Thank-you very much for your help with this part of the study.**