

Table S3. Differences between at least two regions in practices and approaches to lactation and breastfeeding very preterm infants in the NICU

Themes	Subthemes	Region		
		Ile-de-France	Trent	Lazio
Initiation of lactation	Timing of discussion with mothers	Concern with finding the right time to approach the mothers	Concern with finding the right time to approach mothers	Timing not mentioned, portrayed as positive
	Informing mothers about lactation and breastfeeding	Respect mother's decisions because breastfeeding is difficult	Encourage expression because of nutritive qualities of human milk.	Have strong expectations that all mothers will breastfeed because of importance for mother-infant bonding
Management of human milk	Evaluation of risk/benefits of fresh mother's own milk use	Concern about risks associated with infection transmission	Less concern with risks	Less concern with risks
	Access to pasteurized milk	Pasteurization of mother's own milk or donor milk allows more babies to receive human milk	Limited access to donor milk, not mentioned	Donor milk is useful to initiate breast feeding when mother's milk is not available. Use of donor milk is complicated
Lactation maintenance and transfer to the breast	Maintaining milk supply	Milk management practices affect maternal motivation	Follow-up of mothers after expression initiation not well organized	No mention of problems with lactation maintenance
	Use of bottles	Cups are better, but bottles have benefits	Cups are better, but bottles have benefits	Bottles are not a problem
	Breastfeeding as part of the infant's care	Some nurses do not consider breastfeeding as part of their job.	Some nurses do not consider breastfeeding as part of their job	Breastfeeding is part of the infant's care.
	Transfer to the breast	Process can be difficult, staff not always confident about the move to breast	Process can be difficult, staff not always confident about the move to breast	Mothers demands to put babies at breast
Organization	Visiting policies	Open visiting policies	Open visiting policies	Restrictive visiting policies but mothers can enter for feeding or skin-to-skin
	Privacy	Mothers need privacy	Mothers need privacy	Privacy not mentioned
	Discharge from neonatal unit	Bottle-fed babies go home sooner	Bottle-fed babies go home sooner	Accept establishment of breastfeeding at home