The Journal of Neonatal Nursing journal will be publishing a Special Issue focusing on perinatal and neonatal palliative care

The Journal of Neonatal Nursing will be publishing a Special Issue focusing on the topic of perinatal and neonatal palliative care - and is currently seeking papers.

The loss of a pregnancy unfortunately is not uncommon. Five situations have been suggested as appropriate to withdraw or withhold life sustaining treatment. Generally these fall into the categories of ‘no chance of survival’, ‘no purpose’ or ‘unbearable’. Examples, include those newborns who are born on the edge of viability where evidence has demonstrated that babies sustain multiple and severe morbidities, those born with congenital abnormalities potentially incompatible to life, newborns who do not respond to curative treatment and finally, those for whom the treatment would only prolong suffering and postpone death.

Achieving a ‘good death’ for newborn babies who are not expected to survive is vital since how it is managed has an enduring effect on the emotional, psychological and ultimately physical health of the parents and family. A positive outcome is dependent on a multi-disciplinary approach that supports family centred care throughout. Caring for marginally viable and critically ill newborns can be improved by the multiple paradigms and perspectives that inform this area of neonatal practice. This includes an understanding of the psychological, social, cultural, ethical and political dimensions.

Papers for this special edition are therefore invited from all members of the multi-disciplinary team on any aspect of the process towards achieving a ‘good death’. Although not exhaustive, this may include, for example, identification and definition of the pathology, the importance of planning, standardisation of policies, examples of good practice and family centred care and the individual’s role in the team.

We would like to invite authors to submit their full manuscripts for consideration to the Guest Editor at deeberesford@btinternet.com with a covering later specifying ‘Special Issue – Palliative Care’ by 1 October 2015

The Journal of Neonatal Nursing is the practical, bimonthly, research-based journal for all professionals concerned with the care of neonates and their families, both in hospital and the community. It aims to support the development of the essential practice, management, education and health promotion skills required by these professionals.

The JNN will provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information between the range of professionals working in this field; promote cooperation between these professionals; facilitate partnership care with families; provide information and informed opinion; promote innovation and change in the care of neonates and their families; and provide an education resource for this important rapidly developing field.