



### The Safety and Quality of Feeding in the NICU

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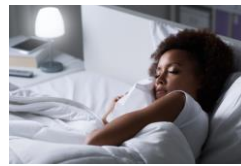
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzOd7-KFNhyE>

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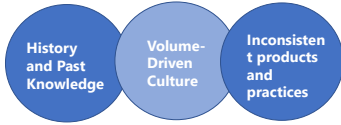
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3y32e4A8f3I>



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### How Did we Get here?



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### Feeding practices VARY



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### Products VARY

NIPPLES	MILK FLOW RATE (mL/min)	COEFFICIENT OF VARIATION
Enfamil® Extra Slow Flow	8.96	0.24
Enfamil® Slow Flow	13.24	0.17
Enfamil® Standard	19.14	0.09
Similac® Slow Flow	8.04	0.2
Similac® Infant Standard	18.49	0.21
Similac® Premature	19.17	0.19
Dr. Brown's® Ultra-Premie™	4.92	0.10
Dr. Brown's® Premie Flow™	7.22	0.14
Dr. Brown's® Level T	9.93	0.06
Dr. Brown's® Level 1	13.31	0.08

(Pados, 2020;2021)



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### SAFETY?

Disposable single use Slow Flow



9.9  
3 ← ml/min → 17.39



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### SAFETY?



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According to NANN.....



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# Consistency MATTERS



**Competency 1.3:** Consistency of feeding practices among staff who feed an infant shall be promoted, monitored and verified.

(IFCDC, 2023)



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40-70%



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feeding Together™



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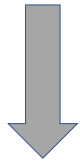




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40-70%








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Numerous quality improvement initiatives have been developed in the NICU setting. Some of these topics are as follows:

- Pain assessment
- Reduction of central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSIs)
- Prevention of sepsis
- Prevention of necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC)
- Hand hygiene
- Mother-infant interactions
- Human milk nutrition
- Prevention of unplanned extubations
- Management of bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD)
- Prevention and management of hypothermia
- Magnetic resonance imaging without sedation
- Use of music therapy<sup>3</sup>







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- ✓ Increase number of infants fed according to cues
- ✓ Improve parent satisfaction around feeding
- ✓ Increase number of first feedings offered at breast





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## References


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