Childbirth Education Services

Welcome to a very special place for special babies ...

The Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

Your baby may need to be in the NICU for a number of reasons that require special observation or medical treatment. While your baby is here, he/she will be followed and treated by neonatologists, physicians specialized in the care of high risk infants. Your baby will also receive care from specially trained nurses, occupational therapists, respiratory therapists, pharmacists and dietitians.

In the NICU we practice Developmental Care. This care provides the best environment for your child to grow and recover as quickly as possible. Developmental Care is centered around your baby’s individual needs, based upon his/her gestational age and current medical condition; it includes the practice of clustering cares. Cares are defined as vital signs, diaper changes, X-rays, lab draws, etc. Cares are coordinated with feeding times to allow each child longer periods of uninterrupted sleep. This sleep promotes optimal growth and development, improving recovery time. Your baby’s nurse will explain more about your role in promoting Developmental Care for your child.

We encourage you to spend time with your baby during their care interactions and to please be respectful of your baby’s quiet times.

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Because your baby is very susceptible to illness, we have important visiting guidelines in place.

- Please do not visit or allow others to visit who are not feeling well or may have been recently exposed to any illness.
- Please wash your hands thoroughly for one full minute.
- Please remove coats and place purses in a provided locker.
- The number of visitors at bedside is limited to four people. This limit helps maintain a calm, quiet environment for your baby. Exceptions may be made during religious ceremonies, special procedures or other unique circumstances. Please keep in mind we may have to ask you and your family to step out in cases of emergency or procedures.
- Babies with IVs, when well enough to be held, may be held only by parents. This is to prevent any injuries.
- Siblings are allowed short visits. We have special guidelines for siblings, which must be followed, No Exceptions.
  - Children must be healthy with an updated immunization record. The immunization record must be on file with us before a child will be allowed to visit. To protect the health of all babies, a requirement is to complete a short infection screening form with every visit.
  - Siblings must be past their third birthday.
  - Children 3 to 10 years old are allowed a 15-minute stay once per day.
  - Children must stay at their baby’s bedside.
  - Children must have adult supervision at all times.
  - To respect the quiet time of babies and others, children must be quiet during their visit.
- You may keep in touch with us and obtain updates anytime. Our phone number for your hospital room is extension 5730, from outside the hospital 414-329-5730 or 1-877-772-6428.
- We will be happy to answer any of your questions. Information regarding your baby will only be given to you, the parents. This information may be given in person or over the phone. Please inform your family and friends that we are unable to provide confidential information.

Adapted from Core Curriculum for Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing, M. Terese Verklan and Marlene Walden, 2009