

NICU

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit



Delivering healthy care from the start.

Our **NICU** (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) program provides comprehensive on-site care management for high-risk newborns. Providing support for families at every step helps to ensure our most fragile babies receive the appropriate treatment in the right setting and that timely, sustainable and safe discharges are accomplished. From NICUs to qualified, competent home care, our program makes us an integrated part of the hospital experience.

The **NICU** program includes:

First Cry: Referral & Admission Review

Our experienced NICU program nurses know our newest members the minute they arrive and coordinate all care with key providers. In addition to their own training and experience, our nurses can provide resources and educational tools for parents, other nurses and specialty physicians. Medical Directors with Neonatology expertise are also available.

Education and Support for Family

- NICU program nurses will help with understanding the NICU environment and expectations, and can provide ongoing assessments of the baby's condition and personalized care plan. This extra support for parents enables improved communication with NICU staff and encourages involvement and bonding with the baby.*
- NICU program nurses will include a review of the NICU environment and expectations, a detailed assessment of the babies' condition and a personalized care plan. Education on administering medications, possible side effects that may occur, and feedings will be provided as well.*

Home at Last: Discharge Planning

We know that bringing a new baby home is exciting, so our NICU program nurses collaborate with parents, hospital staff and providers to identify needs, resolve any barriers and provide the necessary services that will make baby's and parent's arrival home as special as possible.

Transition Home/Home Follow-Up

Our NICU program nurses provide assessment and education while the baby is hospitalized, as well as extra support and follow-up for two weeks after discharge or until the transition to home care is comfortably fulfilled. This includes special skills for administering medications, possible side effects to watch for, and for any customized feeding needs the baby may have.



The cost of prematurity

- The direct health care costs to employers for every healthy, full-term baby in the first year of life averages \$2,830; the cost for a premature baby is about 15 times that, or \$41,610.*
- On average, in the first year of life a full-term baby spends 2.3 days in the hospital; a premature baby, 16.8 days.*

Clinical guidelines work for babies, too

- The national Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project estimates that in 2002, potentially avoidable hospital visits for pre-term babies amounted to \$7.4 billion, of which half, or \$3.7 billion, was billed to employers and private insurers. The NICU program offers a proven track record in managing the costs, potential absenteeism and family stress that having babies in the NICU can bring.*

Source: 2007 March of Dimes Foundation