



Neonatal Intensive Care



The best care for our tiniest patients

In the event your baby is born prematurely or with complications that require critical care, you'll be glad to know that the pediatric team from Valley Children's Healthcare operates both a Level II and Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) onsite at Saint Agnes. Even the sickest babies won't have to travel any farther than a few steps from their delivery room to receive the optimum level of care.

Which babies are admitted to the NICU?

- Babies that are born between 24-34 weeks gestation
- Babies with known cardiac, neurological or intestinal defects that require intervention*
- Babies that require a higher level of care
- Babies that require surgery soon after birth. In such cases, the medical team will stabilize the baby and arrange a transfer to Valley Children's Hospital in Madera.

What to expect during your baby's stay

To help ease your anxiety about leaving your little one at the hospital, here are some things to know about the NICU and the resources available during your visits.

Visitation

- Mother and father will receive an access code that they will use to visit baby and get medical updates over the phone. This code CANNOT be shared.
- In accordance with current COVID-19 restrictions, only ONE visitor is allowed at a time. Mother and father may rotate.
- Parents may visit at any time. No entrance or exit is permitted during shift changes (7-7:30 a.m. and 7-7:30 p.m.)
- Parents must complete one minute of hand-washing before entering the unit. All jewelry must be removed for the duration of the visit.

Resources available for parents and baby

- Every baby is paired with a social worker and case manager to assist with insurance, financial and discharge needs. Social workers can help find additional support services.
- Breast pumps and supplies will be provided to mothers during visits. Lactation support is also available as needed.
- When parents are away from baby, a lovey doll can be placed next to baby to give comfort. The mother places the doll in her shirt without any scented lotions or perfumes before giving it to baby.

Finding meaningful resources

Valley Children's NICU at Saint Agnes

The Valley Children's care team is always available to answer your questions and provide updates about your baby.

Level II NICU (6th floor) | (559) 353-5672

Level III NICU (4th floor) | (559) 353-5671

NICU Parent Support

To help parents of NICU babies find support, parent chat nights are held every other week at Valley Children's Hospital in Madera.

To learn more, visit www.valleychildrens.org or contact Mary Medina at mmedina@valleychildrens.org or (559) 353-5615.

Postpartum Support International (PSI)

Parents with a baby currently or formerly in the NICU can attend this online support group to connect with other NICU parents.

To learn more, visit www.postpartum.net.

Hand to Hold

Online support groups, peer mentorship, bereavement support, counseling services and sibling support are available for families following a NICU hospitalization.

To learn more, visit www.handtohold.org.

March of Dimes

Find information on a variety of health topics including feeding your baby in the NICU, NICU care and postpartum care. They also provide a mobile app to help you document your baby's growth while in the NICU.

To learn more, visit www.marchofdimes.org