

# NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE AT UW MEDICINE

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For more than 50 years, the skilled and compassionate neonatal professionals at UW Medicine have been dedicated to providing the highest level of care for even the most fragile newborns and their families.

We are a leader in the field of neonatology, pioneering advances in care that have helped newborns across the United States. We were also the first health system in the region to open a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at UW Medical Center.

The Washington State Department of Health and the American Academy of Pediatrics define four levels of neonatal care, which are often indicated by roman numerals. UW Medicine is proud to offer the two highest levels of care (levels III and IV) in our NICUs. This means our hospitals are able to care for even the tiniest and most critically ill newborns.

The Level IV NICU at UW Medical Center is one of the largest in the Pacific Northwest, with 39 single rooms and four rooms for multiples that can care for up to 50 newborns. The Level III NICU at Valley Medical Center is the only Level III NICU between Seattle and Tacoma and can care for up to 30 newborns.

Our NICUs offer single family rooms with parent sleep space, family lounges, parent mentor and sibling programs, developmental physical therapy and speech services. Neonatology specialists are available 24 hours a day and work in partnership with specialists at Seattle Children's Hospital to care for newborns with more complicated medical needs.

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To transfer a patient, call **206.987.8899**.

Transport Communications Center will connect you with a neonatologist and coordinate mode of transport.

### *Why do babies need the NICU?*

The most common reason is being born premature, before 37 weeks of gestation. Nearly one out of every 10 infants in the United States is born premature and requires special medical care and attention. However, even a full-term baby may need to be admitted to the NICU for extra care. Whatever the reason, our neonatologists bring extensive experience and great compassion in caring for all infants, up to and including micro preemies—babies born before 26 weeks gestation or weighing less than 2.2 pounds.



### *Care Team*

Our experienced NICU teams bring together experts from every medical discipline to focus on the baby's unique needs. At the head of each team is a neonatologist, a doctor who has completed additional years of specialized training in evaluating and treating newborns' medical problems. They work closely with neonatal nurse practitioners (NNPs), skilled nurses, physical therapists, respiratory care practitioners, pharmacists, nutritionists and others to give every baby the care they need.

At UW Medicine, we recognize that parents are the most important people in their newborn's life. And while we will always provide the most advanced and expert care available, only parents can provide the love their baby needs. Our team works with parents, to plan each baby's care. We will be there every step of the way, educating, and supporting them as part of a continuum of care that continues even after discharge.

### *Locations*

**UW Medical Center: Level IV NICU**  
Mountlake Tower, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
1959 N.E. Pacific St.  
Seattle, WA 98195

**Valley Medical Center: Level III NICU**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
400 S. 43<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Renton, WA 98055