

NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE AT UW MEDICINE



Every parent wants their baby to be born healthy. We know how scary it can be when your baby is born too early or needs extra medical care after birth. For more than 50 years, the skilled and caring professionals at UW Medicine have been providing the highest level of care for even the most fragile newborns and their families. We are a leader in pioneering care that has 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.

There are four levels of care that hospitals in Washington can provide to newborns and 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, giving worried parents peace of mind.

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. 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 rooms with parent sleep space, so you can stay close to your baby, family lounges, parent mentor and sibling programs, and physical therapy and speech services for babies who need them. The providers in the NICU also work in partnership with specialists at Seattle Children's Hospital to care for newborns with more complicated medical needs.

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“You are in the right place, this is the right place for your baby.”

–NICU patient’s family

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 too early 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 NICU providers are experienced in caring for all infants, no matter how small or ill.

Care Team

Our NICU teams bring together experts to focus on your baby’s unique needs. At the head of each team is a neonatologist, a doctor with specialized training in 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 it needs.

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, teaching and supporting you as you make this journey with your baby.



Locations

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

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