Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

With internationally recognized neonatal, obstetrical, pediatric and maternal-fetal medicine specialists collaborating in an all-inclusive hospital setting, Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital and its affiliated physicians provide world-class care for the tiniest of patients. Named a Center of Excellence by OptumHealth, the Neonatal Critical Care Unit includes a 38-bed private room Level II Neonatal Special Care Unit and an 80-bed Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and treats over 1,000 babies per year. The NICU is equipped to care for critically ill infants and premature babies born as early as 23 weeks’ gestation and weighing less than 1 pound.

While high-tech therapies and advanced equipment are used, we never lose sight of the value of human touch to the infants in our care. The NICU is supported by 40 pediatric subspecialties and renowned programs in maternal-fetal medicine, neurosciences, cardiac and cardiac surgical services.

High Quality Outcomes

Our outcomes support the finding that the higher number of complex cases treated annually leads to a staff that is more experienced with those complex cases. A study in *The New England Journal of Medicine* found that the mortality rate is lower among very-low-birth-weight infants treated in NICUs with highly experienced staff that treat a higher volume of babies. Annually, Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital treats over 250 very-low-birth-weight infants, and has some of the best outcomes in the United States. As compared to peers in the Vermont Oxford Network (VON), the world’s largest NICU database, Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital’s NICU ranks among the best in the nation according to key clinical outcome indicators.

Leaders in Research

Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital is one of only eight centers in the nation to be recognized by the premier research networks for obstetrics and neonatal medicine (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Neonatal Research Network and Maternal-Fetal Medicine Units Network). They continue to push forward, always working to provide the highest level of care for newborns.

(over)
Texas Fetal Center

Of the six fully integrated fetal centers in the United States, the Texas Fetal Center at Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital is the only one to be located within a comprehensive care facility, where affiliated physicians from all service lines stand ready to provide treatment to both mother and baby. The multidisciplinary team is the most experienced at providing comprehensive fetal diagnosis and intervention in the Southwest. Its members are world leaders in laser ablation in twin-twin transfusion syndrome (TTTS), performing over 300 laser ablation cases, and they performed the first fetal spina bifida repair in the region.

ECMO

Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital is one of only two hospitals in Houston to offer extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO). In this treatment, a heart/lung bypass machine breathes for babies in severe respiratory distress, allowing their lungs to rest and heal until they can breathe comfortably on their own. Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital has been named a “Designated Center of Excellence” by the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization.

Children’s Heart Institute

The Children’s Heart Institute at Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital is a leader in diagnosing and treating heart problems. Patients with congenital and acquired heart disorders, and the complex health problems that often accompany them, benefit from comprehensive, multidisciplinary care delivered in collaboration with other departments within the hospital. When pediatric cardiac surgery is required, affiliated surgeons provide outstanding treatment focused on the best possible outcome for each baby in their care.

Transport Team

The Adult and Neonatal Transport Teams operate within a 300-mile radius of Houston using ground, 24/7 Life Flight® air ambulance and Learjet services, allowing for the highest level of care while en route to the hospital. Our Neonatal Transport Team is led by a neonatal intensive care physician and consists of registered nurses and respiratory therapists with advanced training focused on providing the highest level of care.

Meet the Team

The team of affiliated specialists caring for NICU patients at Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital, in collaboration with The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) Medical School, is made up of:

- Anesthesiology
- ECMO specialists
- Maternal-fetal medicine
- Neonatology
- Pediatric services including:
  - Cardiology
  - Cardiovascular surgery
  - Gastroenterology
  - General surgery
  - Hematology
  - Infectious disease
  - Neurology
  - Neurosurgery
  - Neuroradiology
  - Neurophysiology
  - Nephrology
  - Ophthalmology
  - Orthopedic surgery
  - Plastic and reconstructive surgery