



NEONATAL PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Children’s Minnesota neonatology program encompasses the largest high-risk neonatal care program in the Upper Midwest. Our fetal intervention and ECMO programs are also nationally recognized for exceptional clinical outcomes. We are committed to consistent care across the community; limiting unnecessary variation; identifying and spreading best practice; and rapidly addressing opportunities for improvement.

- **1,900+ newborns** cared for annually by Children’s neonatal program.
- **A comprehensive care team** including neonatologists, neonatal nurse practitioners, nurses, respiratory therapists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, pharmacists, social workers and music therapists.
- **500+ babies transported** annually by the Neonatal Transport Team. Babies are transported by helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft, and specialized critical care ground transportation with in-route capability for full ventilatory and hemodynamic support, body cooling and ECMO.
- **Three Mother Baby Centers** that combine Allina Health’s fetal and maternal services with Children’s neonatal and pediatric specialty care.
- **24/7 NICU coverage** by neonatologists and neonatal nurse practitioners.
- **24/7 Neonatal Virtual Care for regional community hospitals**, a technology that allows critical audio/video consultations during stabilization of newborns.

NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE SETTINGS

Minneapolis	Level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)	44 beds
	Level II Special Care Nursery (SCN)	33 beds
	Infant Care Center (ICC)	41 beds
St. Paul	Level III NICU	50 beds
	Level II SCN	12 beds
Coon Rapids	Level II SCN (Mercy Hospital)	16 beds

The largest high-risk neonatal care program in the upper Midwest.

Diagnostic, medical and surgical services provided:

- Cardiovascular evaluation and treatment
- Cardiac surgery for complex cardiac anomalies and ECMO (Mpls only)
- Developmental assessment and therapy
- Diagnostic testing
 - Apnea testing
 - At-home apnea monitoring
 - Hearing screenings
 - Infant pulmonary function testing
 - Ophthalmologic and retinal services, including retinopathy screening
- Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO)
- Fetal services
- Dedicated pediatric surgical specialties
- High-risk delivery support
- Infant massage and music therapy
- Mild systemic hypothermia (MSH) for infants with hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy (HIE)
- Consultative support for high-risk perinatal patients
- Neonatal follow-up clinic
- Neurologic monitoring and care
- Neuro-intensive care program
- Nutritional consultation and care
- Pediatric anesthesia
- Respiratory support
 - Inhaled nitric oxide therapy
 - Noninvasive, conventional and high-frequency ventilation
- Specialized care and follow up of newborns with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS)

NEONATOLOGY MEET THE TEAM

We think of our team as a family, caring for other families. That means we work closely with referring physicians as well as parents to deliver the best care for babies in need. As one of the largest neonatal teams in the region, we're able to care for the most acutely ill newborns in our Level IV NICUs and for less fragile babies in our Level II sites. We offer 24/7 access to a neonatologist so physicians can consult with our team on urgent needs. And to support families on their journey, we provide child life specialists, dietitians, music therapists, neonatal nurse practitioners, respiratory therapists, social workers, spiritual counselors and more.

Our team partners with the childbirth experts at The Mother Baby Center, a collaboration between Allina Health and Children's Minnesota. The partnership helps us deliver consistent, high-quality care while limiting unnecessary variation and making swift improvements in best practices.



Thomas George, MD is the system medical director of neonatology and medical director of the Minneapolis level IV NICU at Children's Minnesota. Dr. George joined Children's in October 2018. Previously, Dr. George held the position of director of clinical services for the division of neonatology at the University of Minnesota, medical director of the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital, Fairview Southdale and Ridges Hospitals, and associate director of the Pediatric Residency Program. He earned his MD degree at Indiana University and completed his pediatric residency and neonatal-perinatal fellowship at the University of Iowa Children's Hospital. Dr. George has been in practice for more than 20 years and has extensive experience in caring for patients with cardiac and congenital anomalies. His clinical research interests have included the role of inhaled nitric oxide in premature infants; he also has interests in educational research, faculty development and determining trainee competency.



Jennifer Berger, DO
Staff neonatologist

Neonatal training: University of Iowa
Clinical interests: Management of extremely premature infants, necrotizing enterocolitis, global health



Mark Bergeron, MD, MPH
Medical Director, Special Care Nursery

at Children's Minneapolis campus and Mercy; Director, Telehealth and Outreach; and Associate Director, Children's Minneapolis level IV NICU
Neonatal training: Univ. of Minnesota
Clinical interests: Public health policy and advocacy for newborn infants and hospital-based quality improvement initiatives to drive excellent outcomes for pre-term infants



Katherine Braski, MD
Staff neonatologist

Neonatal training: University of Utah, School of Medicine
Clinical interests: Prevention and treatment of feeding difficulties, necrotizing enterocolitis in premature infants; research in Near-Infrared Spectroscopy



Eric Culp, MD
Staff neonatologist

Neonatal training: Loyola University
Clinical interests: Less-invasive ventilation strategies, antibiotic stewardship



Ann Downey, MD, MSc
Director, NICU quality improvement

Neonatal training: Univ. of Colorado, School of Med.; Northwestern Univ., Feinberg School of Medicine
Clinical interests: Health care quality and safety, neonatal resuscitation



Kiran Dwarakanath, MD
Staff neonatologist

Neonatal training: Westchester Medical Center
Clinical interests: Quality improvement and education



Abigail Faulman, MD
Staff neonatologist

Neonatal training: University of Colorado
Clinical interests: Ethics and neonatal quality of life issues inside and after the NICU



Evangelia (Lia) Gravari, MD
Staff neonatologist

Neonatal training: University of Louisville Medical School
Clinical interests: ECMO and neonatal transport



Donna Hamburg, MD
Staff neonatologist
Neonatal training: Baylor College of Medicine



Heidi Kamrath, MD
Director, Neonatal Transport
Neonatal training: University of Minnesota Medical School
Clinical interests: Management of extreme prematurity, NICU follow-up, quality improvement



Stacy Kern, MD
Staff neonatologist
Neonatal training: University of Iowa
Clinical interests: Care of premature infants at the borderlines of viability



Andrea Lampland, MD
Neonatal Medical Director, Regions Hospital Level II NICU and Lakeview Hospital Level II NICU; Neonatal Director, Midwest Fetal Care Center; Medical Director, Neonatal Research department and Translational Research lab; and Site Director, University of Minnesota Neonatal Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program
Neonatal training: University of Minnesota
Clinical interests: Clinical and laboratory research of neonatal ventilation strategies, the care of extremely pre-term infants, neonatal transport and resident/fellow education



Tamika Lasege, MD
Medical Director, Children's Health Network and staff neonatologist
Neonatal training: University of Louisville
Clinical interests: Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, discharge planning, preventative care, quality improvement, health equity and social determinants of health



Cristina Miller, MD
Director, NICU Follow-up Program
Neonatal training: Wake Forest School of Medicine
Clinical interests: Premature and critically ill infant care, clinical research of long-term neurodevelopmental outcomes of preterm infants



Erin Plummer, MD
Staff neonatologist
Neonatal training: University of Minnesota Medical School
Clinical interests: Growth, body composition, neurodevelopmental outcomes in neonates requiring surgery



Thomas Pokora, MD
Medical Director, Infant Care Center
Neonatal training: University of Minnesota
Clinical interests: Neonatal abstinence syndrome, multiples and education



Jill Marie Therien, MD
St. Paul site Medical Director, Neonatology
Neonatal training: University of Minnesota
Clinical interests: Quality improvement and clinical research, particularly in extremely low birth weight infants during the first month of life



Elizabeth Petri Zorn, MD
Staff neonatologist
Neonatal training: University of Minnesota Medical School
Clinical interests: Neurodevelopmental outcomes, hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy, NICU follow-up