

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

Our NICU Team

The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) team consists of four neonatologists, 11 paediatricians, two paediatric surgeons and anaesthetists, a paediatric cardiologist and neurologist, one clinical nurse leader, one clinical nurse educator, five nurse clinicians plus four dedicated teams of experienced RNs.

Other members of the multi-disciplinary team include a clinical pharmacist, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, social worker, laboratory staff, and supporting personnel. Respiratory therapy support is available 24 hours, seven days a week.

The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) team provides care for 22 babies in our nurseries. Our 6-bed tertiary care nursery provides care for extremely low birth weight infants experiencing a range of health complications. The NICU leading edge equipment is updated continuously.

Our Neonatal Follow-Up Interdisciplinary Team sees specific babies in an outpatient clinic to age 4 1/2 years. Outcome data is benchmarked against Canadian standards to optimize neonatal care.

The team is proactive in providing evidence-based practice including support of:

- Kangaroo Care
- High focus on breast feeding and breast milk supply
- Co-bedding of multiples
- Neonatal Abstinence Program
- Nitric oxide
- Early breast feeding
- Developmental care of the neonate
- Cooling for HIE
- End of life care to babies and families
- Ventilation support

As part of the provincial NICU tertiary system, the Victoria General Hospital NICU serves Vancouver Island and accepts transfers from within BC and out-of-province transports via the Infant Transport Team. Victoria has approximately 2,500-3,500 births per year with approximately 450-550 NICU admissions per year.

Research Studies

- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)
- MIPS (Methamphetamine in Pregnancy and Other Substances)
- FSAT- testing of the Fir Square Assessment Tool for the assessment of neonatal withdrawal
- CAP study (Caffeine for Apnea of prematurity)

