Newborn Medicine

The Weill Cornell Newborn Medicine team provides a wide range of services specially tailored for individualized care of newborn children. We collaborate with medical subspecialists from a myriad of disciplines in order to provide the absolute best healthcare plan for your child.

Our neonatal team also provides care for extremely premature neonates and newborn infants requiring medical or surgical intervention at our Lower Manhattan Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

Our neonatal outcomes, including mortality and complications of prematurity, are superior to worldwide benchmark standards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Australia &amp; New Zealand</th>
<th>Canada</th>
<th>Israel</th>
<th>Japan</th>
<th>Spain</th>
<th>Sweden</th>
<th>Switzerland</th>
<th>United Kingdom</th>
<th>Vermont State (US)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mortality</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia (BPD)</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe Intraventricular Hemorrhage (IVH)</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our mortality is lower at all gestational ages when compared to the Vermont Oxford Network of comparable NICUs throughout the U.S. and Canada.
Services & Programs

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)
Our 50-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) provides a wide range of newborn services specially tailored for individualized care of extremely premature neonates and newborn infants requiring medical or surgical intervention.

Nursing Care
We have certified neonatal nurses and as well lactation consultants in the NICU. Our certified lactation nurses support our goal of maximized breastfeeding rates at discharge, through consultation as early as the antepartum period. Our neonatal nurses support cue-based feeding, facilitating an earlier discharge from the NICU. Our exceptional nursing care helps us achieve low rates of central line infection and pressure injury.

Ancillary support members include social workers, speech/feeding therapists, dieticians, physical therapists, a dedicated child life specialist and a music therapist.

Consultants
Our full range of pediatric consultants attract the transfer of sick infants from multiple hospitals. Specialized surgical care is provided by our general, cardiothoracic, urology, plastic, otolaryngology, maxillofacial and neurosurgery physicians. The Weill Cornell Medicine Department of Pediatrics offers consultation for all pediatric subspecialties.
**Delivery Service**
Our active service, which delivers approximately 5,200 newborns per year, boasts extensive infertility and high-risk obstetrics programs.

**Newborn Care**
Newborn care is provided in our family-centered well-baby newborn nursery, located within the NYP Phyllis and David Komansky Children’s Hospital. Care for healthy infants’ minor medical problems (e.g., jaundice requiring phototherapy) is provided in our seven-bed Continuing Care Nursery (CCN) staffed by neonatologists.

**Fetal Care Center**
If you have recently learned that your baby has a disorder or abnormality requiring special care, or if you have a high-risk condition that makes your pregnancy complex, our fetal care center is capable of meeting all of your needs. Director Ericyn Kasdorf, M.D. and our fetal care team work with maternal fetal specialists, and pediatric subspecialists including cardiologists, geneticists, neuroradiologists, pediatric general surgeons, neurosurgeons, urologists and ENT surgeons, to provide comprehensive management from in utero diagnosis through the neonatal period, and in some cases includes longitudinal follow-up.

**Neonatal Follow-Up Program**
The neurodevelopmental and nutritional progress of infants at risk during their first three years of life is evaluated by neonatal attendings, fellows, physical and occupational therapists, and a nutritionist as part of our neonatal follow-up program. High-risk infants are evaluated for six years.

**Neonatal Nutrition Program**
Specialized Neonatal Nutrition Program services for infants and toddlers are provided during hospitalization in the NICU and through the Neonatal Follow-up Program. Our individualized feeding plans are designed to promote optimal nutrition and growth for infants in the NICU and beyond. Infants and toddlers with failure to thrive and other manifestations of poor growth care are carefully observed in our clinic. Parents are counseled in order to provide a balanced diet, with special consideration given to medical, physical and behavioral difficulties that influence food consumption (e.g. bone mineralization deficiencies, feeding tubes, picky eating habits).

**Research**
Cutting-edge newborn medicine research efforts at Weill Cornell Medicine include:

- a longitudinal study examining the effects of prematurity on cardiac function and fat composition
- determination of the impact of selective head cooling in preventing ongoing injury following intra-partum hypoxia ischemia
- a randomized study to determine whether 30 or 60 seconds of cord clamping delay improves the transitional adaption in premature infants of 28 to 34 6/7 weeks gestation who establish respirations within 30 seconds after birth
- determination of the number of refresher trainings required for nurses to achieve basic resuscitation skill competence using a low fidelity manikin
- reduction of early neonatal mortality in Tanzania – a low resource setting.
- determination of which MRI changes at the term of discharge can predict neurobehavioral
and cognitive outcomes at three years of age.

- Helping Babies Breathe (HBB), a Global Health project to identify and manage newborn infants at risk for bilirubin encephalopathy and kernicterus secondary to unrecognized severe jaundice.

Initial training of Tanzanian Doctors and Midwives in 2009 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Newborn Medicine Research

Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship

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Diagnosis & Treatment

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Dr. Alpa Basu

Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Assistant Attending Pediatrician

View Dr. Basu's Profile
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Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
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Dr. Ericalyn Kasdorf
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Assistant Attending Pediatrician
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Dr. Aimee Parow
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Assistant Attending Pediatrician
View Dr. Parow's Profile
What to expect

What Sets us Apart

- We are nationally recognized for optimizing management of newborn babies in the delivery room including maintenance of temperature in the normal range and electronic heart rate detection.
- Our team is nationally recognized for minimizing infant risk of brain injury using a dedicated neonatal neurology approach. Risk of Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy (HIE) has been reduced using selective head cooling, and intraventricular hemorrhage has been averted in high-risk, premature infants through the use of indomethacin. All of our ICU beds are equipped with EEG video monitoring technology, facilitating the early detection of seizure risks.
• Our neonatologists use echocardiography to dynamically assess sick infant hearts.
• Our NICU features a nearby simulation area where physicians and nurses undergo frequent simulations to enhance patient care.
• Our dedicated psychiatrists and active family advisory group support parents in their time of need.