



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 practices, and rapidly addressing opportunities for improvement.

- **1,900+ newborns** cared for annually by Children’s Minnesota 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 Minnesota 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 III NICU (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
- 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 program support
- Dedicated pediatric surgical specialties
- High-risk delivery attendance
- Infant massage and music therapy
- Therapeutic hypothermia for babies 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. Our Level IV NICU in Minneapolis and Level III NICUs in St. Paul and Coon Rapids help us provide the best care for fragile babies. 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, FAAP, is the system medical director of neonatology 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 NICU at 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, Coon Rapids Level III NICU; Director, Virtual Care and Outreach

Neonatal training: University of Minnesota

Clinical interests: Public health policy and advocacy for newborn infants and hospital-based quality improvement initiatives to drive excellent outcomes for preterm infants



Katherine Braski, MD
Staff neonatologist

Neonatal training: University of Utah

Clinical interests: Prevention and treatment of feeding difficulties, necrotizing enterocolitis in premature infants; research in Near-Infrared Spectroscopy



Eric Culp, DO
Staff neonatologist

Neonatal training: Loyola University

Clinical interests: Less-invasive ventilation strategies, antibiotic stewardship



Ann Downey, MD, MSc
Director, NICU quality improvement

Neonatal training: University 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



David Gonzalez, MD
Staff neonatologist

Neonatal training: University of Minnesota

Clinical interests: Neonatal nutrition and growth, impact of hyperglycemia on brain development, care of underserved and non-English speaking families.



Evangelia (Lia) Gravari, MD

Director, Neonatal ECMO
Neonatal training: University of Louisville

Clinical interests: ECMO and neonatal transport



Donna Hamburg, MD
Staff neonatologist

Neonatal training: Baylor College of Medicine

**Heidi Kamrath, DO**

Director, Neonatal Transport

Neonatal training: University of Minnesota

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; 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 preterm 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

**Christopher Lust, MD**

Staff neonatologist

Neonatal training: Washington University in St. Louis

Clinical interest: Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

**Ryan Meinen, DO**

Staff neonatologist

Neonatal training: University of Wisconsin-Madison

Clinical interests: Point of care ultrasound (POCUS) use in the NICU, PDA management strategies, ventilation of the neonate and quality improvement

**Cristina Miller, MD**

Director, NICU Follow-up Program

Neonatal training: Wake Forest University

Clinical interests: Premature and critically ill infant care, clinical research of long-term neurodevelopmental outcomes of preterm infants

**Emilee Parsons, DO**

Staff neonatologist

Neonatal training: University of Chicago

Clinical interests: Patient safety, simulation and global health

**Erin Plummer, MD**

Staff neonatologist

Neonatal training: University of Minnesota

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**

Medical Director, St. Paul Level III NICU

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

**Tara Zamora, MD**

Medical Director, Minneapolis Level IV NICU

Neonatal training: University of Minnesota

Clinical interests: Extremely preterm infant, blood transfusion practices and neonatal nutrition

**Elizabeth Petri Zorn, MD**

Staff neonatologist

Neonatal training: University of Minnesota

Clinical interests: Neurodevelopmental outcomes, hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy, NICU follow-up