

NICU Awareness 2018

EACH SEPTEMBER WE CELEBRATE

Neonatal Intensive Care Awareness

When a Baby Needs Specialized Care

Pregnancy is a time filled with hope and expectation. Every family hopes for an uncomplicated birth and a healthy baby. But sometimes the unexpected happens.

Every year more than half a million babies are admitted to a neonatal intensive care unit, otherwise known as a NICU.

Did You Know? It's not just preemies.

- Advances in neonatal medicine mean that more infants can benefit from the specialized care that NICUs can offer.
- Nearly half of all babies in the NICU are born at normal-birth-weight and are 37 weeks gestation or older.
- We need to do more research and collect more data. While the efficacy of NICU care for premature babies is undeniable, we don't know if this is true for the entire NICU cohort.

Conditions that NICUs Treat:

- complications of prematurity
- birth anomalies
- brain injury
- cardiac conditions
- infection
- jaundice
- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)
- respiratory distress



Level I	Level II	Level III	Level IV
Newborn Nursery	Special Care Nursery	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit +
Routine Care	+ Temporary breathing support	+ Full respiratory support	+ Available pediatric surgical subspecialists.

* See *Guidelines for Perinatal Care, 8th Edition*

- Sept. 26 NICU Remembrance Day
- Sept. 27 NICU Giving Day
- Sept. 28 NICU Staff Recognition Day
- Sept. 29 Sibling Support Day
- Sept. 30 Neonatal Intensive Care Awareness Day

NICU Awareness

Did You Know?

Most NICU babies have special needs that last longer than their NICU stay. Many will have special health and developmental needs that last a lifetime. But support is available.

Learn about the programs in your community. Seek out other families like yours. Then ask for help. Working together we can create a community where our children will grow and thrive.

Special Health Needs

Babies who have had a NICU stay are more likely to need specialized care after they go home. **Timely follow-up care is important.**

NICU babies have a higher risk for re-hospitalization. So every medical appointment is important. Especially during cold and flu season when these babies are especially vulnerable to respiratory infections.

Who Can Help

- pediatricians
- neonatal therapists
- pulmonologists
- neurologists
- gastroenterologists
- cardiologists
- nutritionists
- CSHCN - Programs for Children with Special Health Care Needs

Special Developmental Needs

Any NICU stay can interrupt a baby's growth and development.

Needing specialized medical care often means that they are separated from their parents and from normal nurturing.

While most NICU graduates will meet all their milestones in the expected developmental progression, It is typical for them to be delayed. This is especially true for preterm infants who are still "catching up" and should be understood to be developing at their "adjusted age."

Who Can Help

- IBCLCs and lactation consultants
- Early Childhood Interventionists
- developmental pediatricians
- occupational therapists (OTs)
- physical therapists (PTs)
- speech therapists (SLPs)
- WIC - Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children
- social workers and case managers

Special Educational Needs

Every child has their own unique developmental needs and **every student has their own unique and special educational needs.**

Take advantage of the services and support that can meet your child where that are and help them reach their future educational goals.

Call your local school district to request a free educational evaluation. Learn about all the available programs and support.

Who Can Help

- Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities (PPCD)
- Special Education programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- educational psychologists
- speech therapists (SLPs)
- occupational therapists (OTs)
- reading specialists

