



What kind of care is provided at the American Family Children's Hospital NICU?

American Family Children's Hospital's NICU provides specialized newborn care and is fully equipped to offer a complete range of pediatric subspecialty and surgical services. This Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) is one of two Level 4 NICUs in Wisconsin and the only one in the Madison area. It provides the highest level of care for premature and full-term babies requiring complex surgery and/or subspecialty medical care.

Who will take care of my baby?

The NICUs at UnityPoint Health – Meriter and American Family Children's Hospital both are staffed by UW Health board-certified neonatologists, who are physicians with extensive training in the care and management of premature and fragile newborns. These doctors, work along with additional doctors, specially trained nurses, pharmacists, respiratory care specialists, social workers and therapists, to provide infants at risk with the care they need. Both NICUs are designed to provide optimal healing for the baby and maximum comfort and convenience for the family during what can be a very stressful time.

How will my baby be transported to American Family Children's Hospital?

We will transport your baby from UnityPoint Health – Meriter to American Family Children's Hospital in a specially equipped ambulance. A team trained in high-risk newborn care will accompany your baby and provide any care he or she needs during the transport. There is room for one family member to ride in the ambulance with your newborn to the Children's Hospital.

What happens when my baby arrives at American Family Children's Hospital?

When your child arrives at American Family Children's Hospital, we take him/her directly to the NICU. There, the medical team will admit your baby. If you are unable to ride in the ambulance, a nurse from the NICU will call you to let you know your baby has arrived. Your baby will be welcomed by a team of nurses and doctors that are specially trained in newborn and surgical care. Keeping you informed and keeping your baby comfortable throughout his/her stay is our top priority.

How long will my baby stay at American Family Children's Hospital?

Your baby's length of stay will depend on his/her treatment and development. The Family Liaison and Outcomes Coordinator works with the NICU team at the Children's Hospital to keep parents informed of plans and any changes that occur. You are welcome in the NICU at the Children's Hospital 24 hours a day 7 days a week. If you are not able to be in the NICU, you may call the unit at (608) 890-9600 any time, day or night, to check on your baby. When you call, ask to speak to the nurse caring for your baby.

How do I get involved in care of my baby in the NICU?

Parents are the most important members of their baby's care team. We welcome and encourage parents to be involved in their baby's care and you are encouraged to spend as much time as possible with your baby in the American Family Children's Hospital NICU, day or night.

If you are hospitalized or unable to be in the NICU with your baby, a virtual visit can be arranged via cell phone app, where you can see your baby and speak with the health care team. There also is a virtual tour of the American Family Children's Hospital NICU available at uwhealthkids.org/nicutour

While your newborn is a patient in the NICU, we will do everything we can to support your needs and involve you in your baby's care.

Are there restrictions on visiting times or who may visit?

American Family Children's Hospital's NICU does not consider parents as "visitors;" we want you to feel welcome in the NICU any time, day or night. For security purposes, we will ask you and all family members/friends to check in at the unit desk each time you come to the unit. Generally, we allow up to four people at a time at your baby's bedside. There may be times when we must restrict visitors other than parents due to space and noise constraints.

Will my baby be transferred back to the UnityPoint Health – Meriter NICU?

Depending on the level of care that your baby continues to require he or she may be transferred back to the UnityPoint Health – Meriter NICU. Physicians, residents and nursing staff at both UnityPoint Health – Meriter and American Family Children's Hospital's NICUs are highly trained to care for your baby and his/her specific needs. The NICU team at the Children's Hospital will keep you informed as these plans are developed. And, if your baby requires special care or monitoring after leaving the NICU, you will receive training until you feel comfortable providing this care.





Providing your newborn with premier, specialized care

Your baby's physician has determined that in order to meet your baby's current medical needs, we need to transfer him/her to American Family Children's Hospital, also located in Madison, Wisconsin. There, your child will receive further treatment in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), a regional center for specialized newborn care.

Since 1978, UnityPoint Health – Meriter and UW Health specialists have provided intensive care for fragile infants from throughout the Midwest, including pre-term and full-term infants with medical or surgical needs. In 2015, this partnership was strengthened and expanded to include American Family Children's Hospital. Together, caregivers from these three entities help ensure babies from throughout the region receive the highest quality of care at the NICU best suited to their needs.

This brochure includes answers to some of the more common questions parents have about their baby's medical needs and treatment and explains how our staff can help during this stressful time.

Where are the NICUs located?

UnityPoint Health – Meriter is located in Madison, Wisconsin, at 202 S. Park Street, west of the State Capitol.

About two miles from UnityPoint Health – Meriter is American Family Children's hospital at 1675 Highland Avenue in Madison, Wisconsin.

Newborn Intensive Care Unit UnityPoint Health – Meriter

202 S. Park Street
Madison, WI 53715

NICU: (608) 417-6215 or (800) 261-2229
unitypoint.org

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit American Family Children's Hospital

1675 Highland Avenue
Madison, WI 53792

NICU: (608) 890-9600
uwhealthkids.org



Mother-Baby Care

Why is my baby being transferred to American Family Children's Hospital's NICU?

UWHealth
American Family
Children's Hospital


UnityPoint Health
Meriter