

# NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT



*Few experiences in life can match the joy of welcoming a new baby to the family. While everyone plans for the day that their child is born, not everyone plans on the possibility that they may need to use the services of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).*

## SCOPE OF CARE

While the vast majority of infants are born healthy and without complications, sometimes special care is needed. For those situations, the on-site NICU at Parkridge East is available to provide the needed care and to keep the mother and baby in the same facility.

The Level IIB NICU cares for babies ranging from the premature to the healthy full-term infant having unforeseen complications that require special care. The unit provides round-the-clock individualized neonatal care by board certified neonatologists, neonatal nurse practitioners and registered nurses. The sole focus of the staff is to provide compassionate, specialized care and intervention for newborn babies.

## BENEFITS OF ON-SITE NICU

All the necessary care is available, and always with an emphasis on helping build family closeness with the newborn. Having the NICU on-site is an important plus in maintaining family bonds during a stressful time. It enables parents to visit their babies, to touch, hold and feed them whenever possible to foster the early bonds that are so important to the development of infants.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Why is it important to have the services of a NICU available?

Sometimes a woman learns during her pregnancy that her baby may be at risk for having complications at birth. However, women who have experienced perfectly healthy pregnancies can experience unexpected complications at the end of their pregnancy or at birth. Because it is critical to have access to the appropriate specialized care immediately if complications arise, giving birth at Parkridge East ensures that care is available 24/7 should your baby require special services.

- Who will be taking care of my baby while in the NICU?

The NICU is staffed 24-hours a day with highly trained Neonatal Nurse Practitioners, registered nurses and a Neonatal Respiratory Therapist. There are also board certified Neonatologists (doctors specializing in the care of sick newborns) in-house or on call 24/7.

- Can we visit our baby if it is sick?

Yes! The NICU has a family-centered atmosphere where parents and caregivers are encouraged to spend time with and help care for their baby. As baby's condition allows, we encourage breastfeeding, if desired, and have a private room for breastfeeding, pumping and milk storage.

- My baby has been in the NICU and is now well enough to go home. I have been visiting, feeding and taking care of my baby, but I am suddenly scared. Now what?

Parents can opt for a night of "rooming in" before discharge. You can stay, if desired, in a hospital-type room just steps away from the NICU to get comfortable taking care of your baby, while still having the nurses available for any questions you have or reassurance you may need.

**For more information or a free physician referral, call MedLine at 800-242-5662.  
Or visit us at [TriStarHealth.com](http://TriStarHealth.com)**

 **Parkridge East Hospital**

*A Facility of Parkridge Medical Center* **TRI STAR HEALTH SYSTEM.**