

The NICU Team

- **Neonatologist** – A neonatologist is a pediatrician who is a certified specialist in caring for premature and sick babies. An attending neonatologist will oversee all of your baby’s care in the NICU and will examine your baby each day. Your baby’s neonatologist will change every few weeks.
- **Neonatology Fellow** – A neonatology fellow is a pediatrician who is completing additional training to become a neonatologist.
- **Registered Nurse** – A registered nurse (RN) who specializes in the care of newborns will be assigned to care for your baby. Each NICU baby has his or her primary team of NICU RNs, though your baby and family will meet and work with additional members of our nursing team.
- **Pediatric Resident** – A pediatric resident is a pediatrician who is receiving training in our hospital. Several residents may care for your baby under the direction of the attending neonatologist.
- **Nurse Practitioner** – A nurse practitioner (NP) has received additional training in a particular field. In the NICU, NPs are members of the team helping to care for your baby.
- **Physician’s Assistant** – A physician’s assistant (PA) is a certified and licensed medical professional. In the NICU, PAs are members of the team helping to care for your baby.
- **Consultant** – A consultant is a pediatrician who specializes in one area of pediatrics. Your attending neonatologist may ask a consultant to see your baby to help with the diagnosis and treatment plan.
- **Dietitian** – The NICU dietitians specialize in supervising your baby’s nutritional needs. Nutrition may include IV fluids, breast milk, and/or formula. The dietitians follow your baby’s growth and adjust the amount and type of nutrition as needed.
- **Respiratory Therapist** – A respiratory therapist works with the team to care for your baby’s breathing. This can include giving oxygen and running a breathing machine, called a ventilator.
- **Physical Therapist** – A physical therapist (PT) works with your baby to strengthen muscles, promote comfort and good positioning, and track and improve your baby’s development.
- **Speech-Language Pathologist** – A speech-language pathologist (SLP), also known as a speech-language pathologist or feeding therapist, helps your baby with feeding and



early communication skills. SLPs assess your baby's readiness to feed by mouth and help your baby feed safely.

- **Pharmacist** – The NICU pharmacists are crucial members of the care team. They are specially trained to help prepare antibiotics, immunizations, and IV solutions to support the growth and health of your baby.
- **Social Worker** – Social workers provide emotional support for families, and may offer to help you and your family adjust to your baby's NICU stay. Social workers also help locate community resources that may be helpful when you take your baby home.
- **NICU Family Support** – The NICU Family Support Program is a family-centered program that utilizes parent-to-parent support to address the unique emotional, educational, and social needs of families who have newborns in the NICU.
- **Lactation Consultant** – Lactation consultants (LC) have received advanced training in breastfeeding support and education. LCs help mothers and families initiate and maintain breastfeeding, overcome obstacles, and provide emotional and educational support.
- **Nursing Director** – The nurse director is the nursing leader and manages the NICU nursing staff.
- **Charge Nurse** – A charge nurse is an RN who is available 24 hours per day to coordinate staff and patient assignments. The charge nurse also helps with any problems that may arise in the NICU.
- **Students** – Brigham and Women's is a teaching hospital and students may be a part of your baby's care team. Students are always supervised by a member of our staff.
- **Chaplain** – The Spiritual Care department at BWH provides families with emotional, spiritual, and religious support. Chaplains are available 24 hours per day. NICU staff can help you contact the chaplain's office, or you may contact them directly (617-732-7480). If you are outside of the hospital, you may have the hospital operator page them directly by calling 617-732-5500.
- **Care Coordinator** – A care coordinator is a nurse who helps families plan for when they leave the hospital. This plan may include discharge to home, or transfer to a community hospital.
- **Unit Coordinator** – The unit coordinator is the first person to greet you as you arrive to the NICU. Unit coordinators screen all visitors, answer telephone calls, help maintain patients' medical records, and assist the medical and nursing staff.
- **Cuddlers** – These volunteers have received specialized training on how to comfort babies, and are supervised by an RN.