

**LAC+USC HEALTHCARE NETWORK
WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES
NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT
SCOPE OF SERVICE**

Departmental Goals: The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit is an important component of the continuum of care providing family centered specialized care for neonates who are acutely ill requiring medical and/or surgical management and/or in varying stages of recuperation. The unit provides a collaborative, multi disciplinary approach to patient management in order to minimize the negative effects of disease processes and to optimize development potential. For those infants whose conditions cannot be treated, an environment will be provided allowing death with dignity for both infant and a family or significant other.

Types and Ages of Patients Served: Age ranges from newborn to one year. Family or significant others are considered an integral factor in the newborn's care. Maternal problems that require an infant to be evaluated for admission include cardiovascular, renal, collagen, pulmonary, infections, liver and sexually transmitted diseases, chronic urinary tract infections, convulsive disorders, diabetes mellitus, isoimmune thrombocytopenia, known Rh negative mother with sensitization, maternal viral, bacterial and protozoan infections, severe anemia, and substance abuse. Neonatal problems that require admission are asphyxiated infants (APGAR of 6 or less at 5 minutes) blood group incompatibility, hematologic instability, inadequate thermoregulation, infection/TORCH/isolation, infants requiring pediatric surgery, meconium aspiration, metabolic instability, pneumonia, prematurity, RDS, weight criteria <2250 or >4450 grams. The unit provides services for a culturally diverse and under-served population.

Method Used to Access Patients Needs: An interdisciplinary approach to patient care management is used to assist the family in making an educated decision about the infant's care. The nurse and the neonatal house staff, under the direction of an attending physician, act collaboratively with Social Services, Pastoral Care, Respiratory Care Practitioners and Occupational Therapy to develop an appropriate plan of care for the infant. The family is an essential part of an infant's support system and is included in this process.

Scope of Services and Complexity of Care: The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit is a 40-bed medical/surgical intensive care unit located on the third floor of LAC+USC Medical Center Inpatient Tower. It consists of twenty-two Level III beds and eighteen Level II beds. The staff in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit provides intensive care to neonates and infants. They provide an environment taking developmental stage and corrected chronological age into account for each infant. They provide an environment which is conducive to healing or death with dignity through identifying and preventing complications with disease states and identifying and dealing with emergency situations. Through a collaborative interdisciplinary approach intensive care level nursing management is ensured through education. Optimal physical and psychological outcomes are striven for, when returning the neonate to the family or significant other.

Volume and Quality Control Improvement Indicators:

- Patient/Family Teaching
- Newborn Screening Monitoring
- IV Therapy
- Infection Prevention
- Medication Administration
- Skin Integrity
- Admissions
- Infant Transport

Performance Improvement Indicators: The performance improvement indicators for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit are the Discharge Planning Process and Skin Integrity Maintenance.

Recognized Standards: Services and functions are developed and implemented in a manner consistent with applicable regulatory and advisory agency standards inclusive of Joint Commission, California Children's Services, DHS, Title 22, FDA, American Association of Neonatal Nurses, American Nurse's Association, American Academy of Pediatrics and Neonatology.

Availability of Necessary Staff: The unit operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The nursing staff report to a Nurse Manager who works collaboratively with the Service Chief of Neonatology. The Nurse Manager is responsible for staffing according to standards appropriate to the patient population and the care that is required for those patients. S/he is responsible for the quality of nursing care provided and for the performance of assigned staff. Registered Nurses who provide care in this unit have critical care training. Staff working in the unit has specific competency assessments for their professional level and job descriptions. Patient care is provided by Registered Nurses. Ancillary support is provided by Clerical staff and Nursing Attendants.