

# NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (NICU)

St. Luke's NICU provides care to premature and full-term infants who require special equipment to care for their special needs.

Opened in 1977, St. Luke's is the only Level I NICU as determined by the American Academy of Pediatrics in the Cedar Rapids area.

In 2022, 280 families were served in the NICU. Parents often call St. Luke's their home as the average length of stay for a St. Luke's NICU or PICU patient is 14 to 18 days.

St. Luke's NICU is the most advanced in Cedar Rapids and is the only NICU in Cedar Rapids to provide:

- Care for 11,100+ NICU babies
- Care for babies 23+ weeks gestation
- Care for extremely low birth weight babies (less than 2lbs 3oz)
- Care for approximately 2,200 deliveries a year
- Care for the highest-risk mothers in Cedar Rapids
- High-frequency ventilation
- Inhaled nitric oxide (for pulmonary hypertension of a newborn)
- NICU Transport Team featuring registered nurses and respiratory therapists specially trained in the management and transport of critically ill or premature newborns

Except in very rare occasions, such as surgical emergencies, a newborn baby should NEVER be transferred out of Cedar Rapids.



Even after a baby comes home from the NICU, St. Luke's monitors the development of infants who encountered difficulties during or after birth.

- The follow-up team includes a neonatal nurse practitioner and a pediatric physical therapist/developmental specialist.
- Physical exams and screening tests evaluate a child's physical and developmental progress.
- Visits are typically scheduled when babies are four, nine, 18 and 30 months of age.

In the event of a delay in growth or development, early intervention referrals are made to area services such as Witwer Children's Therapy for physical therapy and occupational therapy or Grant Wood Early Intervention Program.