

A GUIDE TO
NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT



CHOP

CONNECTION

at
The Chester
County
Hospital

A GUIDE TO NICU CARE

What to Expect

The CHOP Connection Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) is located in the heart of our maternity unit to manage the care of babies who have special medical concerns. Led by a team of neonatologists from The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) on staff at The Chester County Hospital who are complemented by supportive nurses, our Level III NICU administers to the specialized needs of infants who require advanced care upon birth.

For the families of infants who are not delivered here, they too can benefit from the proximity of CHOP Connection. Our sophisticated transport isolette and team of physicians and nurses can arrange for transfer newborns, delivered at other area hospitals, shortly after birth and directly to the NICU at The Chester County Hospital – keeping parents and their babies close to home.

The CHOP Connection NICU can accommodate up to 12 infants. Clinically advanced specially sized equipment allows us to closely monitor the condition of our littlest patients at all times. Our dedicated staff of experienced physicians has advanced training in the care of newborns. A neonatal specialist is in the NICU 24 hours a day to watch over your infant.

One of the first things parents notice when they arrive at CHOP Connection is the family-friendly atmosphere. It is a warm and comforting place, with a spacious lounge for visitors, a comfortable private breastfeeding area, and accommodations for parents who wish to stay overnight.

If more care is required

If at any time during your baby's stay at CHOP Connection it is determined that your child is in need of surgery or multiple sub-specialists, we will arrange direct transport to The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia or another children's hospital of your choice by ambulance or helicopter. The Children's Hospital transport team works hand-in-hand with CHOP Connection physicians to ensure safe, timely transport to the CHOP's main campus in Philadelphia.

In certain cases, infants who are transported to the Philadelphia campus return to The Chester County Hospital for their convalescent care. This eases some of the stress of parents who wish to spend as much time as possible with their recovering infant, while still enabling the baby to receive the best possible care.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where is the CHOP Connection NICU located at The Chester County Hospital?

The Unit is located on the second floor of the Hospital's North Pavilion in the same wing as the Maternity Unit. Please enter through the Hospital's main entrance and take the lobby elevators to the second floor during regular hospital hours. After hours or during emergency situations, enter through the Emergency Department.

Can I stay with my baby?

Parents may visit any time, except during the nursing change of shifts, to ensure confidentiality for all families. Our Neonatal team encourages parents to spend as much time as possible with their baby and to participate in his/her care. A separate breastfeeding room is available in the Unit. Lactation Consultants are available to provide assistance. The NICU also includes a Parent Participation Room, which is available for an overnight stay just prior to discharge to bond and learn baby care.

What does the "Level III" certification mean?

Neonatal intensive care units are rated in four categories. Level I treats well newborn infants only; Level II treats moderately ill babies; Level III provides care for the most complex and severely ill newborns; and Level IV performs heart and lung surgery. As the only Level III in the County, The Chester County Hospital has the highest ranked level in the County and receives many newborns transferred to our care.

Who will take care of my child?

Your child will be assigned a primary physician for his/her stay. Although all of the neonatologists and nurses will be involved in the day-to-day care, the primary physician will be responsible for scheduling periodic conferences with you to review your baby's course, make decisions for further treatment, as well as a plan for discharge.

PHYSICIANS

All attending physicians at CHOP Connection are currently on staff at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Division of Neonatology. They are board certified in pediatrics and neonatal-perinatal medicine and certified in neonatal resuscitation (NRP). CHOP Connection doctors also have direct access to the full staff of pediatric specialists and neonatologists at Children's Hospital for consultations. Depending on the length of stay, your child may see more than one member of the CHOP Connection physician team while hospitalized.

NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Neonatal nurse practitioners at The Chester County Hospital are registered nurses with advanced clinical experience in neonatal nursing. They have received formal education, typically a graduate degree, and are experienced in the management of sick newborns and their families under the supervision of a neonatologist. In addition, they are NRP certified. There is always a nurse practitioner or neonatologist in the nursery 24/7 with a second clinician on call.

NURSES

Our nursing staff comprises registered nurses who have received additional training in pediatric nursing and certification in neonatal resuscitation. Nurses come to CHOP Connection having demonstrated not only the necessary technical skills, but also the compassion that is so essential in caring for babies.

What type of developmental support do you provide?

During your baby's stay every effort will be made to provide a developmentally supportive environment. This can be achieved through positioning, regulating the type and amount of touch, noise control, monitoring of lighting, listening to the baby's cues, and teaching parents how to interact with their baby most effectively. Physical therapy may also be involved in your baby's care. The role of physical therapy in the NICU is to help provide developmental care, as well as range of motion exercises, massage, oral stimulation for feeding, visual input, rocking, and giving any necessary recommendations to nursing and physicians. In addition, physical therapists may provide specialized instructions to treat various diagnoses common in babies needing NICU care.

Will our pediatrician be notified?

Prior to your infant's discharge from the Hospital, we will ask you to identify the physician who will be your infant's pediatrician. (We can provide a list of doctors if you have not yet made this decision.) We will then contact your pediatrician on the day of discharge to give him/her a written summary of your baby's course in the NICU. We will also give you a copy of a pre-discharge chest X-ray (if applicable) for your pediatrician to see. You and your pediatrician are welcome to call on us if problems or questions should arise after your baby has gone home.

What can I do to make my baby's medical treatment as successful as possible?

Ask Questions: We encourage you to ask questions of the doctors and nurses. Treatment and a stay in the Hospital can be stressful for baby and parents alike. Be involved in your infant's care. Take the opportunity during your child's admission to ask questions and learn about your child's health and what you can do to help him or her.

Take Notes: It is always appropriate to take notes and carry with you written documents regarding your child's health.

Speak Up: Let us know immediately if there is anything we can do to meet your baby's needs or your needs during your time at The Chester County Hospital.

How can I learn more?

If you have further questions, call us at 610-431-5355 or visit The Chester County Hospital's website at www.cchosp.com.



Ahead of the Curve and Just Around the Corner

Anticipating the arrival of your newborn can be exciting and overwhelming. No matter if you're expecting your first child or you're already an experienced parent, the big day will surely bring you many emotions – from elation to exhaustion.

It is also possible that the day could bring you worry and uncertainty, especially if your infant needs specialized medical attention immediately after birth. It can be frightening. Just as you are experiencing the myriad of feelings that accompany your baby's birth, you suddenly have to face a new and often confusing situation.

Caring for newborns who need extra attention requires exceptional skills and, often, special tools. CHOP Connection at The Chester County Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) has both in abundance. Our NICU is certified Level III, the only one in Chester County. You would go anywhere to get your child the best medical care, so we hope you find it comforting to know that you can find it nearby. An infant's special medical needs can put enough stress on your family; it shouldn't put miles between you.

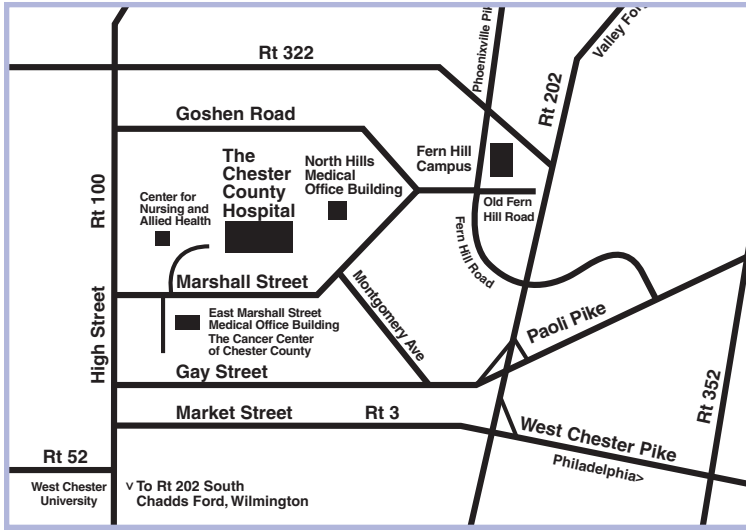
The goal of CHOP Connection neonatologists and the compassionate NICU nurses is to provide your child with superb care while making your experience as comfortable and as stress-free as possible. You may want to discuss CHOP Connection with your own obstetrician.

About CHOP Connection

CHOP Connection at The Chester County Hospital is a joint pediatric/neonatal service of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and The Chester County Hospital.

This includes a dedicated Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at The Chester County Hospital, under the medical direction of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. This unique affiliation combines the extensive resources of The Children's Hospital – a world leader in neonatal medicine – with the experience and facilities of The Chester County Hospital. Our NICU service is comprised of Board Certified and NRP certified physicians specializing in the care of newborns, as well as skilled nurses who provide excellent care to the Hospital's tiniest patients.

The CHOP Connection also extends to our Pediatric Unit if extended care is needed.



Using Route 3 (West Chester Pike) and Blue Route

Follow Rt. 3 to West Chester. Upon entering the borough of West Chester, Rt. 3 becomes Gay Street. Immediately after the McDonalds, make a right onto Montgomery Avenue. Look for blue "H" sign and follow to light at East Marshall Street. Proceed straight through the traffic light into the Hospital parking lot. For the Emergency Room and visitor parking turn left at the first stop sign toward the Hospital.

Using Route 100 South from the Pennsylvania Turnpike

Follow Rt. 100 South to West Chester past Route 30. Take the Pottstown Pike exit and proceed into the borough of West Chester, passing the West Chester Country Club Golf Course on right. The first traffic light after the golf course is Marshall Street (look for blue "H"). Turn left onto East Marshall Street. Follow to the first traffic light and turn left into the Hospital parking lot. For the Emergency Room and visitor parking turn left at the first stop sign toward the Hospital.

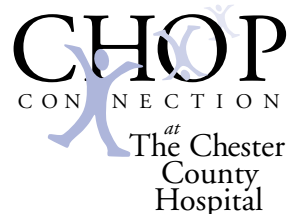
Using Route 1 North and Route 202

Follow Route 1 North to Route 202 North to the Paoli Pike Exit and turn right at bottom of ramp. Upon entering the borough of West Chester, Paoli Pike becomes Gay Street. Immediately after the McDonalds, make a right onto Montgomery Avenue. Look for blue "H" sign and follow to light at East Marshall Street. Proceed straight through the next traffic light into the Hospital parking lot. For the Emergency Room and visitor parking turn left at the first stop sign toward the Hospital.

THE CHESTER COUNTY HOSPITAL

701 East Marshall Street

West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380



- There is free parking at The Chester County Hospital.
- Free valet service also is available at the main entrance.