

newborn intensive care unit

division update

Family Integrated Care Program

“Made us the best advocates for our son”

The newborn intensive care unit (NICU) at Dayton Children’s Hospital has recently implemented its Family Integrated Care Program (FICare). FICare is a model of care based on the principles of the family-centered care model aimed to engage parents in the care of their infant in a way that allows them to feel empowered, comfortable and confident in caring for their baby. FICare increases family involvement in care and decreases parental stress. Families participating in FICare provide the non-medical care for their child and begin the presentation in

daily (family centered) rounds. This is a switch from the nurse acting as a facilitator of the infant’s care and this puts the infant and family at the center of care as opposed to often the family feeling like they need “permission” to provide care to their infant. FICare is offered to families with an anticipated stay of more than seven days and who can spend at least six hours at the bedside each day. It is great preparation for discharge and increases independence in both mothers and fathers prior to going home.

goals of FICare

2021 outcomes

breast feeding rates — 100%

All babies were direct breast fed or received expressed breast milk

length of stay

Infants discharged 3-4 days earlier than expected once entering FICare

parent perception

Parent perception of NICU staff listening and explaining increase of 10% after 2 months of implementation

about us

Our NICU is the most comprehensive NICU in the region and is the main referral center for premature and sick newborns. Newborns who reach our center have a 99% survival rate and a low incidence of complications.

We know the importance of collaboration and we have created the Fetal to Newborn Care Center in partnership with Miami Valley Hospital, bringing together decades of experience caring for the most critically ill newborns. In fact, more than 80% of critically ill newborns in the region are cared for by these two hospitals.



David Yohannan, MD, division chief newborn medicine/neonatology

better blood draws for baby

Often babies in the NICU need extensive bloodwork, but this can lead to conditions such as iatrogenic anemia. At the same time, multiple procedures to draw blood can be stressful for the baby and inhibit brain development. To reduce these side effects, Dayton Children’s implemented a quality improvement project to find ways to reduce the number of blood

draws as well as the amount of blood drawn while still providing enough blood to ensure quality test results. Care teams were able to decrease the average amount of blood drawn from 3.6 ml per week to 1.3 ml per week — a 44 percent decrease — leading to better overall care for baby.

colleagues in collaboration

Standardized protocols and treatment plans are proven to lead to better outcomes. That's why Dayton Children's NICU collaborated with their surgery colleagues to implement a standardized protocol for starting gastrostomy tube feeds after gastrostomy tube placement. The NICU has achieved an outcome of reaching full feeds within 24 hours after surgery and decreased length of stay.

The NICU also collaborated with surgery colleagues to standardize treatment of feeding intolerance and necrotizing enterocolitis creating a guide for everyone to follow leading to consistent treatment for all NICU babies.

crib transition

Babies who have prolonged stays in isolettes often have longer stays in the NICU so Dayton Children's NICU nurses implemented an evidence-based weaning protocol for babies to move from an isolette (where their temperature is controlled by the isolette) to an open crib (where the baby is able to regulate his or her own temperature). This implementation has led to babies being transitioned to an open crib earlier and at a lower weight, and a decreased length of stay. An additional outcome included giving parents the ability to dress their babies earlier, which they love!

commitment during crisis

Dayton Children's is committed to family-centered care and found a way to make that work during a pandemic. Initially, visitation to the NICU was limited to one parent but quickly increased to two parents as staff recognized the impact visitation restrictions have on new parents, especially first-time parents.

small start, big future

Born at just 26 weeks, one pound, nine ounces, Jayden was a patient in the newborn intensive care unit from July 2019 to December 2019. Wanting to make his first Halloween special, his parents went all out in decorating his

bassinet bed as a pirate ship, complete with mini lights and sails! They even had special stickers to hand out to all the visitors who came to his room which featured his handprints from when he was only 2 weeks old.



Now at 2 years old, Jayden is a thriving, 23-pound boy with huge smiles and an infectious laugh. This year for Halloween, his family dressed as a scarecrows.

"We are beyond grateful to Dayton Children's NICU for the amazing life-saving care Jayden received and felt like staff became family over our 150-day NICU journey"—
Vanessa and Tyler Martin

by the numbers



18

physicians/advance practice providers on staff



3

NICU NNP's are doctoral prepared



834

total admissions



598

total transports



66,080

newborn diapers used



0

instances of CAUTI or CLABSI