

# Meet the NICU Staff

The staff in the NICU consists of highly trained doctors, nurses and other specialists who are all working toward one goal: to help your baby grow and be healthy. Let's meet a few of them who can tell you what they do.

*"Hi, I'm Jeanette Whitney. I'm a Neonatologist. A Neonatologist is a pediatrician that specializes in the care of premature infants and sick babies."*

*"My name is Chelsea and I'm a bedside nurse in the NICU. We take care of babies at the bedside, we do anything from their cares to carrying out doctor's orders."*

*"Neonatology is very much a team effort. So, you have physicians, you have nurses, you have respiratory therapists. You also have social workers. So, we work with our surgeons and we work with our specialists that kind of do things that are specific to maybe a baby's diagnosis, and basically the way we all work together is that we try to talk everyday."*

*"Hi, my name is Liz Sanchez, I'm a Bedside Nurse in the NICU department. What I do is take care of little babies, neonates, and I take care of them, I do their vital signs, and I do their assessments every three hours."*

*"Hi, my name is Zaida Chavez, I'm the Occupational Therapist for this team. The role of occupational therapy here is to look at the baby's growth and development, as well as to really focus on some of the feeding related issues that a preterm baby might have."*

*"Hi, my name is Diane, I'm a Respiratory Care Practitioner here in the NICU, our job is to handle any respiratory issues that your baby may have, be it on the ventilator, oxygen therapy, vapotherm, and any concerns that the parents have with their respiratory care, we are the one to go to."*

*"In the newborn intensive care unit we have a broad range of staff that helps these families. Our babies typically have a nurse assigned to them and that nurse can have anywhere from just one baby to maybe three babies, sometimes four babies when they're in a recovery phase."*

*"We have respiratory therapists who help ensure that the equipment we use on the babies to help them breathe is put on correctly, is monitored correctly. We have speech therapy, occupational therapy and physical therapy. They help with ensuring that we have an appropriate developmental environment for these babies."*

*"Hello, my name is Susan, I'm a NICU nurse, I help take care of the babies here in the NICU, I help families take care of their babies too. I take care of the needs of the babies as far as nutrition, warmth and providing a safe and secure environment for them. And helping them to develop and grow."*

*"I'm Doctor Mitchell Goldstein. I'm a Neonatologist. A Neonatologist is a physician that takes care of small babies, many of whom are quite sick and many of who require constant hospitalization for the first several weeks of life."*

*"Hi I'm Reverend Diane Williams. I'm the NICU staff chaplain, and I'm here to provide spiritual and emotional support for the patients and for their families as well. I can often be the point of calm in the storm for the mothers and fathers of the babies that are here in the NICU."*

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*“Every morning we have what are called medical rounds, the physician, neonatologist on service rounds along with a neonatal fellow. The other members of the rounding team are the nurse who is in charge for that day, the bedside nurse who speaks about her patient of the day. Often we have a social worker who participates in the rounds as well.”*

*“Hi my name is Emily, I'm a clinical nurse in the NICU, and I take care of the babies by helping the doctors assess their complications and I teach them how to eat and I teach moms how to breast feed and the parents how to take care of them so they're ready to go home.”*

*“Hi, my name is Kristi. I'm a Registered Nurse and a Clinical Nurse supervisor here in the Neonatal intensive care unit. My job is to be an advocate for our nurses, our patients, and their families, and to make sure that we're all working together as a team in this journey through the neonatal intensive care unit.”*

*“The physicians and the nurse practitioners couldn't do it without the rest of the support. The bedside nurse is probably one of the most important people in that baby's life. They know that baby. They know that family. They are a very good advocate for the baby to the provider.”*

*“It's an up and down, rollercoaster ride, every single day. The nurses, they do a good job at giving you lots of information and just making you feel a lot better about the situation.”*

*“The nurses have all been great. Some of them I would consider probably friends because they've taken care of her so much. The care is wonderful. They have so much more here to offer her in order to help her get better. And I really think because she was here is why she was able to get better so quickly.”*