

# NEONATOLOGY

At CHOC, we understand that families want the best care possible when their newborn requires specialized medical attention. Our NICU combines cutting-edge technology with compassionate, expert care delivered by highly trained neonatal specialists. Consistently ranked among the top neonatology programs in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*, CHOC's NICUs provide an exceptional standard of care in state-of-the-art facilities. As a Level 4 NICU—the highest designation—we go beyond the capabilities of traditional NICUs to care for even the most critically ill neonates.

## DESIGNED WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

Located in the Bill Holmes Tower, CHOC's NICU is a purpose-built space featuring 36 private rooms equipped with the latest innovations in neonatal care. These rooms promote bonding and privacy, enabling families to stay close to their baby, practice skin-to-skin care, and breastfeed. Each room also includes a bedside webcam for remote family access.

To further support families, our NICU offers a family lounge, sibling activity room, kitchen, dining area, and private family bathrooms with showers. Accommodations for multiples include spacious rooms for twins or triplets.

In addition to the main NICU, CHOC offers a 54-bed Small Baby Unit and a 13-bed NICU at St. Joseph Hospital, totaling 104 beds on our Orange campus—the largest NICU capacity in Orange County. CHOC also operates a 22-bed NICU at Mission Hospital, offering seamless collaboration with labor and delivery services.

## PATIENT- AND FAMILY-CENTERED CARE

CHOC's NICU places families at the center of care, ensuring they are fully integrated into the treatment team. Social workers and spiritual care staff provide emotional and logistical support, while Child Life specialists help siblings understand and adapt to the NICU experience.

Through a partnership with the March of Dimes, we have implemented the NICU Family Support Program®, offering educational and engagement opportunities, including craft



sessions and family dinners, to foster a sense of community among NICU families.

## THE SMALL BABY UNIT (SBU)

CHOC's Small Baby Unit is a specialized space for neonates born at less than 29 weeks gestation or weighing under 1,000 grams. Designed to mimic the womb, the SBU features dim lighting and low noise levels to support optimal development.

Staffed by a multidisciplinary team—including NICU nurses, respiratory therapists, physical and occupational therapists, lactation consultants, dietitians, and pharmacists—every team member has advanced training in the care of extremely low birthweight infants. Developmental care experts assess feeding, motor development, and muscle tone, while dietitians ensure nutritional needs are met.

## SURGICAL NICU

CHOC's Surgical NICU provides comprehensive care for neonates requiring surgery. This includes pre-, intra-, and post-operative care, with rooms that can be converted into fully equipped operating suites. Our surgical team has access to advanced technologies such as ECMO and high-frequency ventilation to provide seamless care in the NICU setting.

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## CARDIAC NICU EXPERTISE

The CHOC Cardiac NICU provides specialized care for neonates with congenital heart defects, including those complicated by prematurity or multi-organ disease. Our team, dual-trained in neonatology and cardiology, collaborates daily with cardiothoracic surgeons and pediatric cardiologists to deliver exceptional care. The Cardiac NICU is also actively involved in research to optimize neurodevelopmental outcomes and reduce long-term complications.

## NEUROLOGICAL EXPERTISE

CHOC offers advanced neurological care, including Whole Body Cooling Systems for hypothermic therapy, available both in the NICU and during transport. Board-certified pediatric neurologists and EEG technologists are available 24/7 to create individualized care plans. Our Center of Neonatal Research focuses on improving outcomes for infants with traumatic brain injuries or complex neurological conditions through innovative therapies and rehabilitation.

## FETAL CARE CENTER OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Fetal Care Center at CHOC provides comprehensive support for families facing unexpected prenatal diagnoses. Our maternal-fetal medicine and pediatric specialists collaborate to develop personalized care plans, from prenatal intervention to delivery planning and postnatal treatment. This multidisciplinary approach ensures families are fully supported through every stage of their journey.

## CONTINUED CARE AFTER THE NICU

CHOC's commitment to care extends beyond the NICU. Through the NICU Bridge Program, families receive ongoing support for feeding regimens, medical devices, laboratory monitoring, medications, and growth assessments. Our goal is to ensure a smooth transition from hospital to home, offering families peace of mind and continuous care for their baby's health.



## CONTACT US

For consultations with a neonatologist or to admit/transfer a patient, please contact the appropriate location:

### **CHOC Neonatal Services (NICU)**

1201 W. La Veta Ave., Orange, CA 92868

Phone: 714-509-8540

### **CHOC NICU at Mission Hospital**

27800 Medical Center Rd., Mission Viejo, CA 92691

Admit/Transfer: 949-365-2417

### **CHOC NICU at St. Joseph Hospital**

1100 W. Stewart Dr., Orange, CA 92868

Admit/Transfer: 714-509-9820

## VOALTE®

Physicians are available via Voalte®, a secure HIPAA-compliant secure text messaging app, available on PC and smartphone devices. For more information, please contact CHOC Business Development: [BDinfo@choc.org](mailto:BDinfo@choc.org).

*Learn more about CHOC NICU at [choc.org/nicu](http://choc.org/nicu).*