YOUR BABY’S NICU CARE TEAM

NURSING STAFF:
- **Registered Nurses:** All the nurses that care for babies in the NICU, are specially trained Registered Nurses. At all times your baby will have a nurse who will be responsible for assessing, coordinating, and delivering care to your baby, and alerting physicians regarding any changes in your baby’s medical condition.
- **Certified Nursing Assistants:** Assist nurses in caring for babies.
- **Ward Clerk:** The Ward clerk, who is a Certified Nursing Assistant, can be found at the main desk between the North & South Banks to check you in. The Ward clerk may be in your baby’s room assisting with chart duties.

RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS: Specially trained Respiratory Therapists will oversee and deliver respiratory support needed by your infant. They work closely with the infant’s nurse to care for your baby.

LACTATION CONSULTANTS: All lactations consultants are board certified and have backgrounds in high-risk neonatal and maternal care. Lactation consultants will assist you with locating a breast pump, and initiating and monitoring milk production. The consultants work together with physicians and nurses to help you learn to feed and care for your baby.

SOCIAL WORKERS: Social workers are available to meet with all NICU parents. They are able to assist with resource information, referrals, financial concerns, postpartum emotional and mental health support, transportation and local lodging accommodations, and other social issues.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS: (OT) or Speech Therapists may work with your infant in the NICU. They evaluate oral motor skills for sucking and work with nursing and the Lactation Consultant to develop a feeding plan. They also provide education about preemie behaviors to support sensory and motor development and help parents participate in their infant’s care. They may teach you gentle exercises for your baby and give suggestions for head positioning, holding, and organization of the environment.

SPIRITUAL CARE: Chaplains are available to reflect with you on your baby’s hospital stay, and how you are coping. The chaplains are here to offer families a chance to talk about their experience emotionally and spiritually. You can request a chaplain visit at any time.

TRANSPORT TEAM: When premature or sick infants are born in hospitals without an NICU, the neonatal transport team is sent out to stabilize the infant and bring them back to the NICU at RiverBend for care. The team consists of a registered nurse, and a respiratory therapist, who have received training to perform the specific skills needed to stabilize these babies, and bring them safely to the care of the NICU. The transport team also transports babies from the NICU at RiverBend to Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland should they require more specialized care.
**NEONATAL RESUSCITATION TEAM: (NRT)** A Registered Nurse and a Respiratory Therapist will respond to all high risk deliveries.

**FAMILY ADVISORY COUNCIL:** The NICU Family Advisory Council is a group of NICU parents that meet monthly to provide input to NICU staff from a family’s perspective. They help design and evaluate changes that affect the care and services families receive while their baby is hospitalized. If you are interested in joining this important council, please contact our Women’s and Children’s Services administrative assistant at 541-222-5029. Also, please visit their Facebook page, “RiverBend NICU” where you can communicate with other families of infants who have spent time in the NICU.

**CUDDLERS:** When your baby’s condition is stable, regular holding will be important for normal development. During times when you can’t be here to hold your baby, we recommend that you give permission for our cuddlers to hold your baby. Your baby’s nurse is responsible for the care of other babies, while the cuddler is able to give undivided attention to your baby. The cuddlers are specially trained volunteers who hold, sing, and read to the babies, but they do not change diapers or feed the babies. Cuddlers hold clothed babies, not skin to skin.

**CARE MANAGER:** RN Care Managers focus on infant needs for discharge planning and insurance authorization for medical stay. RN Care Managers help connect infants/parents to: local pediatrician care, medical follow-up, making medical appointments, referral scheduling, community and nursing referrals, prescription, and or medical equipment needs and specialized medical care such as home nursing. Parents will see the RN/Nurse Care Manager within 1-2 weeks of discharge to discuss discharge planning, referral needs, appointment lists and concerns parents may have before going home.

Your Baby’s NICU Care Team also includes a host of others who have been trained to provide special services to the infants of the NICU. These caregivers include: Lab technologists, X-ray and Imaging technologists, housekeepers, and equipment and facilities managers.