

Pediatric



Services

St. Luke's Neonatal Intensive Care Units in Allentown and Bethlehem:

St. Luke's Hospital – Bethlehem Campus
801 Ostrum Street,
Bethlehem, PA 18015
610-954-4434

St. Luke's Hospital – Allentown Campus
1736 Hamilton Street,
Allentown, PA 18104
610-628-8649

Section Chief, Neonatology
St. Luke's Hospital & Health Network:
Andrew Unger, MD

Neonatologists:
Waseem Akhter, MD
Migdalia Resto, MD
Muhammad Riaz, MD

NICU Nurse Manager:
Gayle Thear, RN, BSN,
RNC, NE-BC

Nurse Practitioners:
Patricia Bates,
RNC, MSM, CNM, NNPbc
Anecia Carter, CRNP
Heather Meading, CRNP
James Nestor, CRNP

Physical Therapist:
Maureen Rinehimer,
PT, MS, MHS

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ST. LUKE'S NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNITS

St. Luke's has been providing specialized care for medically compromised newborns since 1986. The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) provides a safe haven – a space in which comprised infants can mature and grow outside the womb, one that is so critical for their growth and development. In this safe, quiet, warm and nurturing environment, babies are constantly monitored, nourished with the right balance of fluids and electrolytes, safeguarded from infection, and, if needed, provided with necessary respiratory support systems.

The Level III NICU at St. Luke's Hospital – Bethlehem Campus and the Level II NICU at St. Luke's Hospital – Allentown Campus are leading facilities for highly specialized care for multiple births, premature babies and full-term babies with medical problems.

Staffed by fellowship-trained, board-certified neonatologists, neonatal nurse practitioners and a team of specially trained nurses, lactation consultants, occupational and physical therapists, St. Luke's NICUs offer the very latest in technology and developmental techniques. These units are equipped to perform CT scans, echocardiograms, EKGs, EEGs and ultrasound.

Parental involvement is encouraged in all aspects of care. The NICUs at both campuses offer a waiting room for visitors, a night watch room for parents to spend a night with their baby before going home and a private place to breastfeed or pump milk.

Developmentally Sound Environment

Sound, light, touch and handling are significant environmental factors that play a role in the development of NICU babies, and proper developmental care for these tiny babies can make a big difference. Studies have demonstrated that stress from the environment can prolong hospitalization and compromise outcomes in preterm babies who require intensive medical care. Additionally, undue stress can have long-term consequences on brain development and organization. At St. Luke's, NICU care is provided by a skilled team of caregivers who offer an environment that is sensitive to the baby's sensory development for best outcomes.

Neonatal Developmental Follow-up Clinic

NICU babies born at St. Luke's Hospital may be referred for neonatal developmental follow-up with St. Luke's neonatologists. The program, offered on an outpatient basis at St. Luke's North, serves to identify high-risk babies who are born before 32 weeks gestation to assess behavioral, social and neurological development. Early identification can lead to early referral to beneficial therapies as needed.

Neonatal Apnea Clinic

NICU babies born at St. Luke's Hospital who have difficulty breathing go home with a special apnea monitor that continually monitors and records infant heart rate and respiration. Before leaving the hospital, parents receive appropriate educational instruction vital to caring for their infant with apnea at home. Babies are seen on an outpatient basis at St. Luke's North until their apnea subsides.

St. Luke's North is located at 153 Brodhead Road in Bethlehem.