



Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Visiting Information

We know that visiting your baby is very important to you. The NICU team at St. John's Regional Medical Center (SJPMC) supports your visiting and participation in your baby's care as often as you can.

Below please find some important guidelines to observe when visiting the NICU.

- Parents may visit 24 hours per day, except during a change of shift, which takes place between 6:15 – 7:30 a.m. and 6:15 – 7:30 p.m.
- Parents entering SJPMC after normal visiting hours must do so through the Emergency Department entrance. Please obtain permission from the Security Department desk and sign the visitation log.
- **Parent(s) will be required to wear their Newborn ID Band, so do not remove your ID band or your baby's ID band until your baby goes home.**
- All persons entering the NICU should be free from illness (such as: cough, cold, runny nose, watery eyes, fever, and/or diarrhea).
- Visitors are restricted to **immediate family and siblings** as defined below. To assure good patient care to all babies in the NICU, we ask that you **please remain at your baby's bedside.**
- To protect the confidentiality of our patients, the NICU staff will be unable to give you information regarding other patients. We are also unable to release information about your baby's condition to friends and relatives.
- All visitors must **scrub their hands** before visiting the NICU (see hand washing procedure).
- Visitors must check with the NICU nurses to see if it is an appropriate time to visit the infant.
- A **maximum of 2 visitors** (including parents) must be maintained at all times due to space limitations.
- The NICU staff will request that **all** visitors leave the bedside whenever a special procedure is being performed on any baby in the unit.
- Food, beverages, and/or cell phones are **not** allowed in the NICU. Nursing mothers may have a closed beverage container at the bedside.
- There is a waiting room nearby for your convenience. If you bring other children with you, they must wait in the waiting area with another adult to watch them. Please note that we are unable to provide supervision.

Immediate family: Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and those persons defined by the mother as immediate family.

Siblings: Brothers and sisters of the newborn over 3 years of age are allowed to visit the NICU **with a parent**. The NICU staff must have a recent copy of their current immunization record and obtain an oral temperature. They must wear a mask if they are under 5 years of age. Any children who display inappropriate behavior will be asked to leave the unit with the accompanying parent.

Cesarean Section Infants: Grandparents may accompany the father/support person to visit the newborn at the bedside. Once mother and infant are transferred to the Women's Center, family and friends may visit.

The NICU staff is here to answer any questions you may have about your baby. We appreciate your cooperation so that we can provide the very best care to all families. If you have special questions or concerns, please contact your baby's nurse at (805) 988-2664.