

Stead Family Children's Hospital

# Primary Care Nursing in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

## What is primary care nursing?

Primary care nursing offers you and your baby family-centered care during your stay. This starts by making a list of nurses who will regularly care for your baby.

## How does primary care nursing help my baby?

- It opens communication between your family and the health care team.
- It offers more consistent care from day to day.
- It helps the nurses get to know your baby well so they can be a voice for your baby when health care choices are talked about.

## How does primary care nursing work?

It is based on where your baby is within the NICU. Our NICU is large. Where your baby goes depends on how much care they need.

Nurses work with parents each day on how to best care for their baby. This helps parents give proper care so their baby can grow to become healthy and strong. To give the best care, we have 3 primary care nursing groups:

- Bay 1
- Bay 2 and 3
- Bay 4 and Level 6 of University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital

### **Bay 1: Sickest Babies**

- Babies are very ill or premature and need a lot of support for their heart, lungs, or both.

### **Bay 2 and 3: Babies still need a lot of care.**

- Babies may need breathing support, medicines, or both.

### **Bay 4 and Level 6: Babies are stable.**

- Babies may be breast or bottle fed. They are closer to going home. Nurses in these bays will help parents feel comfortable with day-to-day cares for their baby so they feel ready to go home.

## Your input

During your 1<sup>st</sup> week in each bay, use the space below to write the names of the nurses you would like on your baby's primary care nursing team. Be sure you choose names for day, night, and weekend shifts. Then, give this sheet to your baby's nurse, the charge nurse, or the nurse manager. You may add names at any time; just let your nurse know.

### Bay 1:

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### Bay 2 and 3:

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### Bay 4 and Level 6:

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**Please note:** Every nurse can give excellent, family-centered care. We will try to assign the nurses you chose to care for your baby, but it may not always be possible to have a primary nurse taking care of your baby at each shift.

Please add to your list when your baby moves to a new bay in the NICU.