

Grace Centre for Newborn Care
Parent Advisory Council

Members of the team caring for your baby within the neonatal nursery

Do you need to ask some questions about your baby? This information aims to provide you with a quick description of the roles and responsibilities across the team at the Grace Centre for Newborn Care (GCNC). Please be aware that this is a children's teaching hospital and that there will be nurses and doctors supervising staff who are in training.

Neonatologist - is a newborn intensive care doctor who is the paediatrician who has overall responsibility for the treatment and care of your baby. They are available to speak to you during the bedside rounds that occur twice a day during the week and once in the morning on weekends. You can also ask the nurse who is caring for your baby to contact the neonatologist at other times.

Nurse Manager - is the head nurse who is responsible for the overall operation of the unit in conjunction with the head neonatologist. She has overall accountability for all nursing positions.

Fellow - is a paediatrician who is training to be a neonatologist. They have expertise, clinical skills and make decisions regarding your baby's medical care and treatments in consultation with the neonatologist. They may be in charge of the unit with a neonatologist. They are available during ward rounds or you can ask the nurse who is caring for your baby to contact the Fellow at other times.

Registrars - are paediatricians in training. They implement instructions given by the neonatologist/fellow and monitor your baby's progress. They also order tests and prescribe medications. There is always a registrar present on the ward.

Other Specialists (eg. Cardiologists/Surgeons)- They provide specialist treatment for your baby, liaise with the neonatal team regarding decisions for ongoing treatment and discharge. There are also fellows and registrars on other specialist teams who may be involved in the care of your baby.

Nursing Clinical Coordinators - There are three coordinators who are expert clinical nurses who have responsibility for coordinating the day to day workings of the unit. The coordinators liaise with the medical staff, nursing staff, other teams and the families. They are available any time throughout the day.

Clinical Nurse Specialists - They have undertaken specialist nursing training and have expertise in the care of babies with complex surgical and medical needs and works as a support nurse for the whole unit. There is a Clinical Nurse Specialist on every shift.

Registered Nurses - There are over 60 nurses attached to the unit, who are at various levels in their training.

Lactation (Breast Feeding Nurse) Specialist- She is a registered nurse and clinical nurse specialist who has specialist training in breast feeding. She is available to provide assistance and advice with breastfeeding. Contact with the lactation specialist can be arranged through the nurse caring for your baby.

Discharge Coordinator/Transitional Nurse Practitioner - Is responsible for preparing your baby for discharge and arranging support for the transition from hospital to home. She is present in the mornings in the High Dependency Unit and on morning rounds.

Clinical Nurse Consultant - Her role encompasses clinical practice and research. The position helps with the many projects that are undertaken within the unit. She is available Monday to Friday.

Ward Clerk - is an integral part of the nursery. One of her many responsibilities is to ensure your personal and medicare details are correct. She is available Monday to Sunday and some evenings.

Social Worker - Provides families with appropriate support services. She is present on morning ward rounds or you can ask the nurse who is caring for your baby to contact the social worker at other times.

Physiotherapist - Provides treatment and education to facilitate optimal baby development and movement. In addition the physiotherapist provides chest physiotherapy as appropriate.

Occupational Therapist - Assists with understanding infant behaviour, developmental needs and care and bottle feeding technique.