

# NICU VISITATION

Welcome to the Sally and John Francis Tanner  
Neonatal ICU at Tanner Medical Center/Carrollton!

Having a newborn in the NICU is stressful, but at Tanner, we will work to ensure that you can use this time to continue growing together as a family. The policies below are intended to help you bond as a family while ensuring the safety and wellbeing of your baby and others in the NICU.

## PARENTS

- Parents of NICU babies are welcome on the unit at any time, though we do ask parents and other visitors to refrain from visiting the unit during shift change, from 6:30 to 7:15 each morning and evening.
- Parents are encouraged to be present when our patient care team rounds on their babies to learn more from the medical providers about the baby's progress, discuss parental concerns and have questions answered by medical staff.
- Our patient care team realizes that no one is more concerned about the health of a newborn than his or her parents, and we're committed to empowering you with the knowledge and information you need. Please feel free to ask to speak with a member of the baby's patient care team at any time – we're here to help you, too.

## SIBLINGS

- Speak to the baby's nurse prior to planning a visit from the baby's brothers and sisters to ensure that the baby's condition is good enough that day for visitors.
- It's best to keep visits from siblings short – usually 20 minutes at a time.
- Visitation is restricted for siblings younger than 12 months of age. Children younger than 12 months of age have not yet been able to receive a complete series of vaccines, which could expose the baby and other NICU patients to infectious diseases.

## OTHER LOVED ONES

- Family members may visit the newborn in the NICU at the invitation of the parents. Otherwise, visitors may be received in the lobby of the maternity center.
- All visitors – except the baby's siblings – must be age 18 and older.
- For the safety of other NICU families, only three visitors are allowed at the baby's bedside at a time.
- You may choose up to four adults who may visit the baby in the NICU when parents are not present.
- Be aware that guests, while they may visit in the NICU and see the baby, will not be given confidential health information about the baby out of respect for patient privacy.

## HELP KEEP OUR BABIES SAFE

- Remember that your baby (or babies) are likely not the only patients on the unit and help us protect the privacy and safety of other families as well.
- Please discourage anyone who is sick from coming to the hospital, especially during flu season. Understand that the babies on this unit are very medically fragile.
- If there is a high rate of viral illness in the community, as during a particularly active flu season, visitation throughout the hospital may be intensely limited for the protection of patients.