

For infants born with a severe health condition, nothing is more important than receiving the highest-quality medical, surgical and supportive care in the earliest days, weeks and months of life. The Fetal and Neonatal Institute at Children's Hospital Los Angeles brings together teams of neonatologists, maternal-fetal experts and specialized nurses from CHLA and USC to treat nearly 3,000 infants and high-risk expectant mothers every year.

PROGRAMS AND CENTERS

The Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation Newborn and Infant Critical Care Unit (NICCU)

Every year, the Cohen Foundation NICCU oversees care for nearly 650 critically ill infants who need specialized medical intervention for complex neonatal conditions. The 58-bed NICCU is a Level IV unit, the highest level of neonatal care attainable in the U.S. Patients have access to the latest protocols and technology and a wide range of experts in more than 350 specialties including neurology, cardiology and pulmonology.

Fetal-Maternal Center

The Fetal-Maternal Center is one of the few programs in the nation providing comprehensive care for expectant mothers experiencing high-risk pregnancies. The Center offers diagnosis, treatment, monitoring and personalized post-birth planning by a team of physicians from Children's Hospital Los Angeles and USC, including perinatologists, neonatologists and nurse care managers. For babies who have rare conditions, such as twin-twin transfusion syndrome or spina bifida, the Fetal Surgery Program specializes in life-changing and often lifesaving surgical interventions that few institutions offer.

The Newborn Follow-Up Program

After discharge from the hospital, the Newborn Follow-Up Program provides monitoring, support and care for children up to age 3 who have chronic or complex conditions. The program assesses the developmental, medical, nutritional and psychosocial needs of children at risk for growth problems or developmental delays.

ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Fetal and Neonatal Institute has one of the most innovative models of care for treating maternal-fetal and neonatal problems in the United States. Our experts are equipped to address complex medical, genetic, metabolic and developmental disorders in infants in a supportive, family-friendly environment tailored for children and their caregivers.

- The Institute is consistently recognized among the top neonatology programs in the nation by U.S. News & World Report, which assesses a program's clinical volumes, infection rates, availability of advanced technologies and family support.

ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Children with pulmonary and heart disorders sometimes require advanced cardiopulmonary management using extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), which temporarily takes over a child's failing heart and lungs so the organs can heal. Our ECMO Program is among the largest in California and has been honored with the prestigious Award for Excellence in Life Support by the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization, an international group of health care providers that evaluates hospital treatment therapies for patients fighting complex cardiac disease and respiratory failure.
- The Fetal and Neonatal Institute supports innovative research to develop new treatments and improve long-term outcomes for babies with complex health conditions. Our physician-scientists and researchers collaborate with experts across CHLA, The Saban Research Institute of CHLA and USC to study maternal, fetal, neonatal and infant health. There are four primary research pillars: clinical studies; epidemiology and outcomes research; quality and performance improvement inquiries; and education research.
- The Fetal and Neonatal Institute integrates unique infant-family mental health support beginning when a child is diagnosed with a condition in utero, continuing through hospitalization and after a child goes home. Mental health experts help parents and caregivers build resilience and strengthen the bond with their child to give patients the best chance at a healthy, happy future.
- The Cohen Foundation NICCU has been honored with the ICU Design Citation Award, which recognizes intensive care units that combine functional design with humanitarian delivery of care. The rooms are also technologically advanced. Patient vital signs are electronically tracked and stored in a child's electronic medical record, and rooms are equipped with surgical booms so that emergency procedures can be performed at the bedside.

REFERRALS, ADMISSIONS AND TRANSPORT SERVICES

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