Maternal/Child Services offers the best care for moms and their babies

When Shirlene Hess was admitted to The University of Kansas Hospital at 24 weeks pregnant with triplets, she never imagined she would soon make such good friends. Thanks to the staff of the Mother/Baby and Neonatal Intensive Care departments, that is just what she did.

To help fill the time while on strict bed rest, the Mother/Baby nurses frequently stopped to visit while providing care and offered reading materials about multiple births. They even threw her a baby shower to welcome Barrett, Quinlan and Carson.

Born at just under 30 weeks, the newborns were transferred immediately to our Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), where they received care and support from our highly trained staff.

Two years later, two of the boys continued to receive care at the hospital’s Neonatal Medical Home. This clinic’s staff provides care for our patients who need special attention and services after graduating from the NICU.

The Hess family’s experience illustrates the continuum of care patients receive at The University of Kansas Hospital.

“Our Maternal/Child health program is the region’s only comprehensive program to offer ongoing care to the mother and newborn before birth through adolescence and beyond,” said Prabhu Parimi, MD, chief, Neonatology.

Pregnancy
Our physicians are some of the most experienced at treating high-risk pregnancies. Our Center for Advanced Fetal Care provides the most complete first-trimester wellness exams in Kansas City. These exams offer information so mothers are able to make informed decisions about their pregnancies and deliveries.

If a fetus requires immediate treatment to correct life-threatening health issues, the center is the only program in our region staffed with dedicated specialists. Our physicians have performed more than 3,000 successful fetal procedures.

Delivery
The expert Labor and Delivery and Mother/Baby teams guide moms through every stage of birth. Families are able to stay together in the same spa-like setting during labor, delivery and recovery. They also receive training on all aspects of infant care.

Our staff is highly prepared for not just routine births, but high-risk births too. Delivering a critically ill or premature baby at our hospital significantly lowers the health risks and...
Why would you go anywhere else?

positively affects outcomes for both the newborn and mother. All our suites can be converted to ICUs in minutes and are located next to the operating room and the Level III NICU.

To learn more about our state-of-the-art labor and delivery area, visit kumed.com for a video tour.

Neonatal intensive care
As a Level III nursery, our NICU provides comprehensive care for premature or critically ill infants in one location. We are one of the few hospitals in Greater Kansas City to offer this level of care.

The recently renovated NICU offers private rooms, with some designed specifically for multiple newborns. There is space in each room for parents to sleep, read or work. And to make families’ experiences more comfortable, the unit provides a family lounge and dining area. There is also a state-of-the-art procedure room in the unit.

Our integrated team of medical specialists focuses on providing family-centered care. Because of the high quality care these tiny patients receive, our neonatal outcomes exceed national and international benchmarks. Our overall survival rate to discharge is 97 percent vs. the 95 percent benchmark. To maintain those excellent outcomes, we continually undertake new evidence-based initiatives, such as the High 5 for Mother and Baby breastfeeding work group. We are the first hospital in the Kansas City area to participate in this Kansas initiative, which promotes and supports breastfeeding.

Neonatal Medical Home
As the only medical home devoted to neonatal care in the U.S., this clinic has been designed especially for children with complex medical problems. A variety of pediatric specialists practice in this single location. In cases where children are hospitalized, these same physicians provide their care.

Leaders in pediatric care
The newly remodeled Pediatrics and Pediatrics Intensive Care Unit features private rooms with space for parents to sleep and help care for their children. The unit also has a brightly colored playroom, outpatient procedure room and designated waiting room. There are also fun activities for children along the hallways in the unit.

To further enhance our pediatric program, the hospital, the University of Kansas Medical Center, The University of Kansas Physicians and Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics are working to develop a single, integrated pediatric program. The goals of this new program are to enhance clinical care, advance pediatric academic development and expand pediatric research initiatives.

“Through our Maternal/Child program, we offer personalized care for every stage of a child’s life,” said Gail Schuetz, NNP, director, Maternal/Child. “Our team is dedicated to providing the very best care for premature and at-risk infants to enhance their short- and long-term outcomes.”

At The University of Kansas Hospital, we want our youngest patients to have the very best. That is why we are committed to helping children be healthy and happy.

Visit kumed.com for more information.

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