

# 20 YEARS OF EXPERTISE Elliot's Newborn Intensive Care Unit AT YOUR SIDE



Welcoming a new baby into the world is an exciting time for families. Often, everything you anticipate and expect for your baby is perfect and your healthy newborn and you are discharged from the hospital with only the worries of how to best care for your baby at home. Not all pregnancies and deliveries are perfect, however, and hundreds of them, every year, require expert and unique medical care to ensure your baby will have a safe environment within the hospital. This critical service is known as a Newborn (or Neonatal) Intensive Care Unit (NICU). In Manchester, Elliot is the only hospital that has a NICU and there are many benefits of this unique unit that families have come to understand when delivering their baby.

Consider Kari Czeremin's story. She was born at Elliot Hospital 20 years ago after her mother, Angela, was transferred from another local hospital. The transfer was made because the hospital she was about to deliver in did not have a NICU. Kari was premature and needed the technology, expertise and the skill of a Newborn Intensive Care Unit. "After 20 years, I still see some of the nurses at Elliot who were with me when Kari was born," explains Angela. "The most important thing was being able to deliver in a hospital where I understood they could care for my baby and for me without separating us. It is an experience that has stayed with me all my life."

At birth, Keri was one pound, 10 ounces. She was in the NICU for 107 days and being cared for by a neonatologist and nurses who are trained for caring for sick and premature babies. The atmosphere then was very different than it is today. Back then the babies and families were all in one room. Today, the NICU is spacious and offers private and semi-private rooms. There have been major advances in technology and there are four neonatologists caring for the sickest and tiniest of babies. Angela

proudly states, "My daughter Keri is 20 years old, she is healthy, happy and just made the Dean's List at Rivier College where she is pursuing her dream to become a nurse."

More recently, Zarifa Selimovic was just 24 weeks pregnant when she went into labor on a cold February afternoon. Mirza, her son, was born at Elliot Hospital. Weighing just one pound, 12 ounces, he was immediately taken to the fully renovated and state-

of-the-art Newborn Intensive Care Unit.

Despite the uncertainty surrounding such a difficult time in their life, the Selimovic's 116-days in the NICU weren't without joy. A scrapbook made by the nurses that cared for Mirza celebrates even his smallest achievements – the day he reached two pounds, the first day he tried a bottle and a handmade hat announcing his 100th day of life. The staff in the NICU became extended family to the Selimovics. "Dr. Beale and Dr. Franzek were so nice," says Zarifa of the neonatologists that cared for her baby. "Everybody gave me hope."

Today, Mirza's mother and father know that the Elliot NICU was the lifesaving

service that allowed them to see their boy grow and develop into a healthy child. They were never separated from their baby after birth and today they still call him, "a miracle baby."

The Elliot Hospital NICU has evolved over the past 20 years. All of that experience, extensive research, and staff and patient input went into ensuring that the current NICU offers the most advanced technology in the most comfortable environment. Elliot delivers more babies than any other hospital in the state – more than 2,200 per year – and the Level III NICU is the only one in the Greater Manchester area and one of only three in the state.

The private and semi-private rooms, individual temperature controls, room darkening shades, decibel meters and soundproofing are all features that provide babies an environment that more closely resembles conditions in the womb in order to

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**– Beth Hale-Campoli, Chief Nurse Officer**

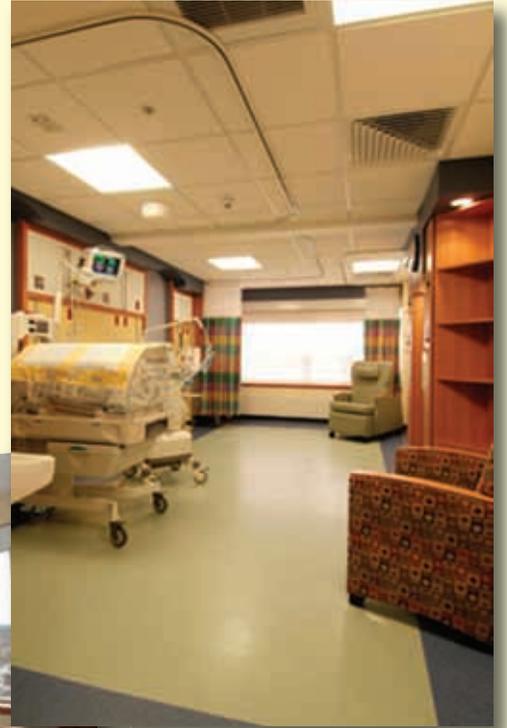
help support their treatment. The family room, overnight capabilities at each bedside for parents, lactation room and reflection “quiet” area provide additional opportunities for families to stay close to their babies during care.

Beyond the celestial décor and the expansive city views, it’s difficult to miss the sophisticated technology found throughout the unit. Each patient room includes the latest advancements in infant care. The unit also houses its own blood gas lab, x-ray viewing room, consultation room and interdisciplinary clinical work room.

While every family deserves the experience of the Elliot’s Maternity Center, resembling a hotel with soothing colors contributing to the décor’s relaxing, home-like atmosphere, the fact that the NICU is in the hospital staffed by the experts who can deliver life saving care in minutes is comforting.

“Our patients are delighted with the amenities of the Maternity Center but the true comfort, they say, is feeling secure knowing that the NICU is on-site should their babies require additional care,” explains Beth Hale-Campoli, Chief Nurse Officer.

For more information about Elliot Hospital’s Maternity Center and NICU, contact ELLIOT ON-CALL at 663-4567.



## The Elliot Newborn Intensive Care Unit is staffed by four Neonatologists:



Ernest Beale, MD



Deborah Franzek, MD



Malgorzata Bulanowski, MD



Kevin Petit, MD

**The Elliot.**  
*Live Better!*

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