

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) - SAVING LIVES



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Recent years have witnessed an increase in the number of premature and extremely preterm births due both to advances in the field of fertility treatment and to enhanced prenatal care. At-risk newborns – babies born before the 37th week of pregnancy - can weigh as little as 500 grams (!) and suffer from a variety of complex problems that developed during pregnancy or arose as complications of the early delivery. These include birth asphyxia, respiratory distress syndrome, metabolic disorders, congenital malformations, and other conditions.

Preterm birth is traumatic for both the parent and the child. The parents are faced with an unexpected emotional crisis - often accompanied by anxiety and feelings of guilt, confusion, depression, numbness and anger, while the infant must adjust to extra-uterine existence before final readiness for the event.

If your baby is premature, you are not alone. Between six and 10 per cent of newborns are born preterm. Although it is frightening to give birth early, you can be assured that your premature baby will receive the best care possible at Laniado Hospital. A better understanding today of infant physiology and premature infants' special needs, together with scientific and technological innovations, have made it possible to reduce infant mortality to a minimum and to give babies an optimal quality of life.

[NICU - Questions & Answers](#)

What Happens in the Case of a Premature Birth?

In the case of a premature birth, a reinforced staff that includes an expert pediatrician and nurse are present in the delivery room to immediately treat any problems. Often resuscitation and breathing support are required. An operating room is located within the birthing complex should surgery be necessary. After the initial treatment, the preemie is transferred to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

What is the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit ?

Premature babies who were born in Laniado or were transferred from other hospitals in Israel receive the special care they need to give them the best chance of survival with as few problems as possible at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Staffed by an expert team of caring medical professionals, the NICU utilizes the most advanced systems and procedures and is outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment including the innovative "Giraffe" incubator. The latter enables, among other things, the "kangaroo" method, which allows the baby to have skin-to-skin contact with a parent, which helps to regulate the baby's temperature and facilitates bonding at this crucial time.

Your baby will be placed in an incubator for warmth and observation and may need artificial ventilation to help in breathing and be artificially fed. Depending on her/his condition, your baby may need to spend days, weeks or even months in the Unit while undergoing various therapies and treatments.

Emotional Support

A social worker will provide guidance and support, and assist you with various issues that arise during your baby's hospitalization, both through individual consultations as well as group meetings of parents. Towards the end of hospitalization, when the baby meets specific criteria (listed below), the social worker will help prepare you for your return home, both on a practical level and to help you deal with any concerns and fears.

To maintain continuity after the release from the hospital, you and your baby will be invited to the Premature Baby Clinic for further treatment and monitoring. You will again meet with the social worker, who will help with any questions or difficulties that you may experience.

When is Your Baby Ready to Return Home?

Babies are released from the hospital when they reach a weight of 2 kilograms (4.4 pounds) or

reach the age of 36 weeks from the date of conception, and meet the following criteria:

- They are gaining weight
- They maintain their body temperature without intervention in an incubator
- They can breath uninterruptedly

WHY LANIADO?

- At Laniado you will have the concerted support of a caring, dedicated, and professional health care team.

- Laniado has an extensive range of diagnostic, monitoring, and therapeutic capabilities for newborn infants.

- Laniado utilizes the most advanced equipment to give your baby the best chance of survival and thriving.

Contact Us

Phone numbers:

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Department Location

Medical Center Building – 3rd floor

Press here for [location map](#)