



Dr. Dennis Rosenblum, St. Luke's NICU Medical Director and Lindsey Ricklefs, RNC, BSN care for a patient.

Expert care for eastern Iowa's fragile new residents

Opened in 1977, St. Luke's Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) has been caring for newborns for more than 30 years. St. Luke's team of neonatologists, nurse practitioners, pediatricians, nurses and other staff are available 24/7 and care for 350-400 babies each year.

St. Luke's is the area's only Level II Regional perinatal center (by designation of the Iowa Perinatal Guidelines Advisory Committee), and a level III NICU by national guidelines set forth by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

This designation means the staff's level of expertise enables them to handle the most acute infants. In fact, other hospitals in Iowa transfer newborns to St. Luke's, including areas as far away as Manchester and Waverly.

St. Luke's was the first birth care center in the nation to receive the national award for outstanding Family-Centered Maternity Care. In fact, hospitals around the world have visited St. Luke's private NICU suites to assist in planning their own units.

St. Luke's NICU has 22 private suites that are individualized for each baby to promote faster healing and growth. St. Luke's intentionally decided not to include whirlpool tubs and bathrooms in each of the rooms and installed carpeting, to diminish sound that might adversely affect a developing premature baby. Studies show infants do better in these controlled surroundings.

Experience is about how many babies are cared for, the ability to care for the sickest babies and using the latest technology available. Based on that, St. Luke's has the most experienced NICU team in Cedar Rapids.