

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Clinical Expectations

Clinical Pre-Conference:

Mrs. Tidwell - (806) 543-4372

▪ **Welcome!**

- You will meet me in the NICU family waiting room on the 3rd floor of the Children's Hospital
- How are you feeling? If you have been running fever or actively sick, please do not come into the unit
- Please remove any rings, watches, etc. Permanent jewelry needs to be covered with a glove
- NICU is a locked unit - you will buzz to get into the unit

▪ **Break/Care times:**

- Babies typically eat Q3 hours at 8-11-2-5 or 9-12-3-6 Occasionally they eat Q4 hours
- You are expected to be at bedside for all cares and procedures for your patient assignments
- Typically, 10 am is a suitable time for a break. Break should be no longer than 15-20 minutes. Plan accordingly so you have adequate time to get back to bedside for cares/procedures/baths etc.

▪ **Care:**

- Scrub with soap and water before beginning of shift. Ensure you clean under your nails
- If you touch a baby - glove. If you hold a baby - gown and glove
- If parents are at bedside, they will do all care and you will assist
- You will be assigned 2-4 patients - pick one to do paperwork on
- Nurses are going to guide your day so you will follow the nurse for your assignments
- If you have a patient going to the OR or Radiology, you will go. Contact Mrs. Tidwell for scrubs.

▪ **Phone use:**

- No social media, pics, etc. Be sure to keep your phone put up unless you are looking up patho or meds or contacting your instructor.

- Be respectful of computer usage. If your nurse needs to chart, please find a different computer.
- Listen to bedside report. Not everything will make sense. Let Mrs. Tidwell know if you have any questions following report

▪ **Codes:**

- **Break room code/Central Supply: 56504**
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Neonates often require specific medications to address various health needs. Here are some common ones:

- **Vitamin K:** Given to prevent bleeding disorders due to low levels of Vitamin K at birth
- **Erythromycin Eye Ointment:** Applied to prevent serious eye infections
- **Hepatitis B Vaccine:** Administered to protect against Hepatitis B, a liver infection
- **Surfactant:** Used to treat respiratory distress syndrome in premature infants
- **Antibiotics:** Given if there's a risk of bacterial infection
- **Analgesics and Sedatives:** Such as morphine and lorazepam, used for pain management and sedation
- **Anticonvulsants:** For managing neonatal seizures
- **Cafcit:** CNS Stimulant for neonatal apnea

❖ **You are expected to seek out opportunities to give medications. You will be expected to give at least one medication for your patient assignment.**

▪ **Post conference:**

- Will start at 12:00 in NICU family waiting room unless told otherwise by Mrs. Tidwell
- Patient care comes first. If you are going to be late to post conference, please notify Mrs. Tidwell

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