**The Multi-disciplinary team in neonatal care**

Neonates in the neonatal unit (NNU) need constant monitoring and 24-hour care from a variety of health care professionals. Here are some of the staff members (in alphabetical order) that a parent or neonate may encounter:

**Administrator**: Responsible for a combination of administrative and secretarial roles often providing personal assistant support at meetings and for the lead nurse / NNU consultants.

**Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (ANNP)**: A registered nurse who has advanced and specialised training in working with premature and sick newborns. He or she can perform many advanced skills / procedures and work at a higher level of decision making.

**Clinical support worker**: Health professional who is part of the non-nurse registered workforce who provide clinical support to the team. Health care assistants provide one example and generally work up to band 4.

**Dietician**: A professional who advises and recommends special feeding regimes

**Neonatal nurse**: Registered nurse who may or may not have completed additional post-qualifying neonatal training. Those who have completed such a course are called ‘qualified in specialty’ (QIS) and can then progress to higher bands as part of their career development.

**Neonatologist:** A paediatrician / consultant with advanced training in the care of premature and sick neonates. There may be several neonatologists in the NNU.

**Neonatology fellow / registrar**: A fully-trained pediatrician who is receiving advanced training in the care of premature and sick neonates and is often the most senior physician in the NNU late at night.

**Neonatal senior house officer**: A trained doctor who is undertaking a rotation in neonatal care.

**Nursery nurse**: Part of the non-registered workforce but who have completed nursery nurse training at NVQ level.

**Occupational therapist**: A health professional whose work is based on engagement in meaningful activities of daily life, especially to enable or encourage participation in such activities in spite of impairments or limitations in physical or mental functions. In neonatal care, they aim to improve these functions in the newborn with various interventions to limit any developmental problems caused by neonatal care.

**Pharmacist**: A professional who is responsible for ensuring correct and safe administration of neonatal drugs and advises on drug indication, dose and availability for all neonates on the NNU.

**Physiotherapist**: A professional who treats injury or dysfunction with exercises and other physical treatments of the disorder. In the care of the NNU, they may deal with neurological conditions or may be part of the respiratory management of neonates requiring ventilation.

**Religious figure**: A priest, minister, rabbi, imam or other religious advisor, who can provide spiritual support and counseling to help families cope with the stressors of the neonatal unit experience.

**Social worker**: A professional who is specially trained to help families cope with the social aspects of their baby’s NICU stay. They can help parents deal with financial difficulties and make any special arrangements for the neonate’s discharge and follow-up care.

**Speech and language therapist**: A professional who is trained in speech and language problems, but often works with neonates in NNUs to help assist them with feeding problems.

**Technicians:** Staff members who are responsible for the upkeep, maintenance and often staff training of equipment required for care delivery in the NNU for example; ventilators, syringe pumps, blood gas machines.

**Ward clerk:** Responsible for the running and manning of the front desk dealing with reception and support tasks to the NNU team. An essential member of the team for efficient communcation between team members and families and staff.