

NICU



LEVELS

@_penelopeproject



LEVEL I NICU

A NURSERY PROVIDING BASIC CARE FOR:

- **H**ealthy, full-term babies of usually low-risk pregnancies.
- Stable, preterm babies born around 35–37 weeks gestation.
- Stabilizing babies born less than 35 weeks until they can be transferred to a higher-level NICU.



LEVEL II NICU

A NURSERY WITH LEVEL I ABILITIES PLUS ADVANCED CARE FOR:

- Preterm babies born at 32+ weeks and weighing 3.3lbs+ (1500g+)
- Babies with easily treated illness and physicalities (jaundice, apnea, NG/OG feeds, temperature)
- Stabilizing babies born less than 32 weeks and less than 3.3lbs (1500g) weeks until they can be transferred to a higher-level NICU.
- Rehabilitating babies after intensive care.
- Access to neonatologists, respiratory therapists, radiologists, lab-techs, x-ray, and blood and gas analysis

LEVEL II NICU 'A': Does not provide assisted ventilation

LEVEL II NICU 'B': Provides assisted ventilation for less than 24 hours and CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure)



LEVEL IV NICU

MEETS ALL LEVEL III CRITERIA PLUS:

- Care for the most complex and critically ill infants
- Ability to perform complex surgeries
- Care for babies of the lowest viability
- Equipped for advanced medical imaging
- Provide mechanical ventilation



LEVEL III NICU

IN ADDITION TO LEVEL I & II CARE, A LEVEL III NICU PROVIDES SPECIALIZED CARE:

- **Infants born less than 28 weeks and less than 3.3lbs (1500g)**
- **Life support for newborns of all ages, weight, and critical conditions**
- **Newborns suffering from severe maternal/fetal complications**
- **Respiratory Support (CPAP and sustained ventilation support)**
- **Access to pediatric medical and surgical specialists, registered nurses, anesthesiologists, ophthalmologists, physical and occupational therapists, dietitians, lactation specialists, social services**

LEVEL III NICU 'A': babies born greater than 28 weeks and weighing over 2.2lbs (1,000g). Capable of long-term conventional mechanical ventilation and minor surgeries (central line, hernia repair, etc)

LEVEL III NICU 'B': babies born 28 weeks or less and weighing less than 2.2 lbs (1000g). Capable of advanced respiratory care, access to a wide range of medical/surgical sub-specialists and highly skilled nurses. Able to perform more complex surgeries (usually sharing staff with a Level IV NICU)