

PRESS RELEASE

Covenant HealthCare Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit to Celebrate Milestone

On Tuesday, November 23, at 6:00 until 9:00 am Covenant HealthCare Women's and Children's Services is holding a small gathering at the Covenant Harrison Campus in celebration of the Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (RNICU) reaching 365 days without a central line infection.

Dr. Khawar Mohsini has been the Medical Director of the unit for 16 years and has led several quality improvement efforts in the RNICU. For the infection prevention project, several better practices for the management of central venous lines were introduced in 2009. According to Dr. Mohsini, "infections lead to higher mortality and worse outcomes for neurodevelopment and chronic lung disease, as well as increasing the length of stay and health care costs."

Statistically, there is an average of 6-10 line infections per every 1,000 patient days. When you consider that Covenant has had 0 infections and roughly 12,775 patient days per year (average daily census 35 with 365 days per year), that is phenomenal.

Per LeeAnn Chadwick, RN, BSN, Co-Manager of the RNICU, "one infection in an infant can considerably change their outcome for the worse. Infection prevention is one of the best possible things we can do for the babies in our care."

About the Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

- Recognizing the need for advanced neonatal care Dr. Chai opened the unit opened in 1974, an extraordinary pioneering effort
 - Today, 36 years later, Dr. Chai continues his mission to provide extraordinary care to the tiniest of patients
 - More than 20,00 babies have received care in this unit over these many years
 - This is a 55 bed unit, and over the year an average of 35 of these beds is in use.
- Covenant's RNICU cares for babies from 20 counties
- Every year over 140 babies in the region, AND BEYOND, are transported to Covenant by emergency transport, helicopter or ambulance, because they need the care only provided by Covenant.
- Time is critical in these cases, the quicker the critically ill infants and children get to an ICU, the better the outcomes.
- Highly skilled neonatologists and neonatal nurse practitioners provide round-the-clock in-house coverage. The very high nurse to patient ratio means the babies are closely monitored at all times.
- The unit offers the full scope of services needed by patients and their families including nursing, respiratory therapy, occupational and physical therapy, radiology, lactation consultation, social work and pastoral care.