

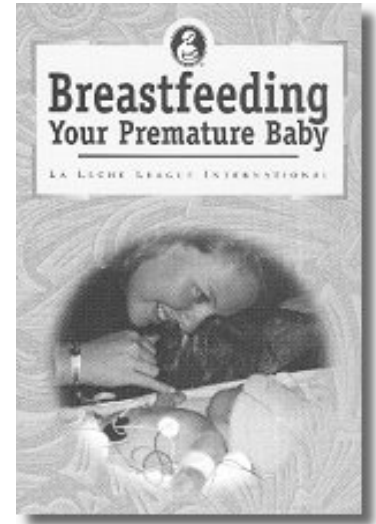
# Counseling the Mother of the Premature Baby - Part I

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Texas Breastfeeding Promotion  
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Or toll free 1-800-942-3678

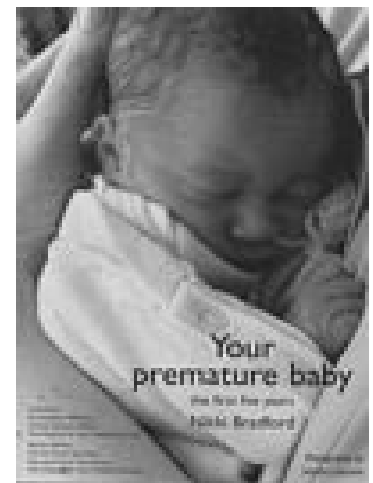


# Bibliography

*“Breastfeeding Your Premature Baby”, by Gwen Gotsch*



*“Your premature baby - the first five years”, by Nikki Bradford*



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- Course materials
  - PowerPoint handout

# A Baby Has Been Born Too Early

What Happens Now?

# Where Do the Babies Go?

- Neonatal care
- Intensive care
- NICU
- Special Care Nursery

NICU

LEVEL I

LEVEL II

LEVEL III

# LEVEL I

- Monitoring of stable conditions
- Infant feeding, including breastfeeding
- Safe transport
- Emergency care

## Level II (In addition to Level I)

- Care for newborns with birth weights of 3 ½ pounds (1500 g) or greater
- Continuing care of relatively stable, low birth weight babies
- Short term or transport ventilation support



# Level II

- Care for mild to moderate
  - respiratory distress syndrome
  - suspected neonatal sepsis
  - hypoglycemia
  - mild to moderate post-resuscitation problems

# LEVEL III

(In addition to Level I&II)

- Care for severe respiratory distress syndrome, sepsis, severe post-resuscitation problems, significant congenital cardiac and other diseases
- Severe complications and critical care

# LEVEL III

- Assisted ventilation on short- or long-term basis
- Specialist consultations
- Surgery and recovery care
- Transport care as needed

Terri's baby was born at 38 weeks gestation, 7 lbs. 6 oz. Terri's baby has been placed in an NICU because she is jaundiced and needs to be placed in the Phototherapy unit because her bilirubin level is 17 mg. Which NICU level will Terri's baby be in?

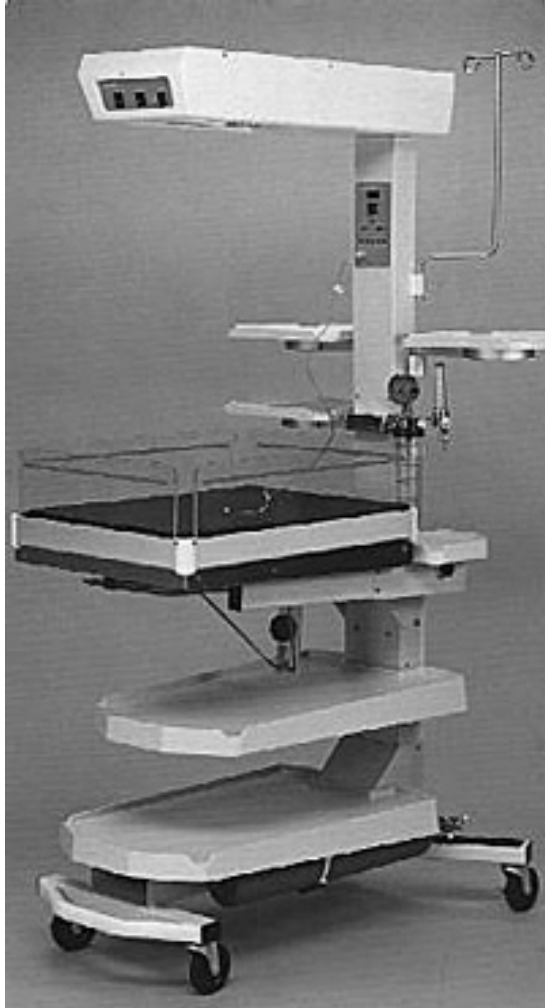
1. Level I
2. Level II
3. Level III

Knowing the Terms the  
Parents Are Learning  
Equipment in the NICU

# Incubator/Isolette

- Incubator/Isolette:  
basically a  
transparent plastic  
box





# Open Incubator / Radiant Warmer

- Radiant warmers are used when a baby is very unstable or extremely premature.

# Ventilator

- This is a machine that helps a baby breathe
- The ventilator shown is a positive pressure ventilator. It puffs down 20 - 40 “breaths” per minute.





# “Oscillator,” or “High Frequency Oscillatory Ventilator” (HFOV),



- Instead of blowing the air and extra oxygen into the baby’s lungs, the Oscillator “vibrates” it down.

# Blood Gas Machine



- A blood gas machine analyzes a sample of the baby's blood and reports the pH and the level of oxygen and carbon dioxide.

# Pulse Oximeter - Saturation Monitor

- Measures the amount of oxygen in a baby's blood









# Blender

- A "blender" mixes pure oxygen and air (or other gases) in precise ratios and delivers the resulting mixture to the baby

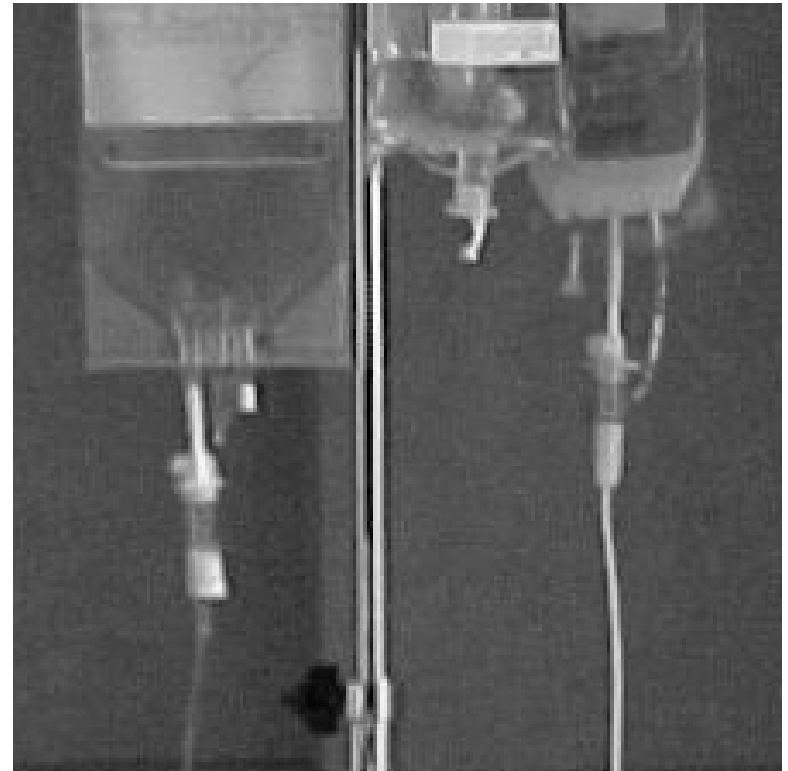
# Blood Pressure Monitor

- The "Dinamap" takes the baby's blood pressure at programmed intervals



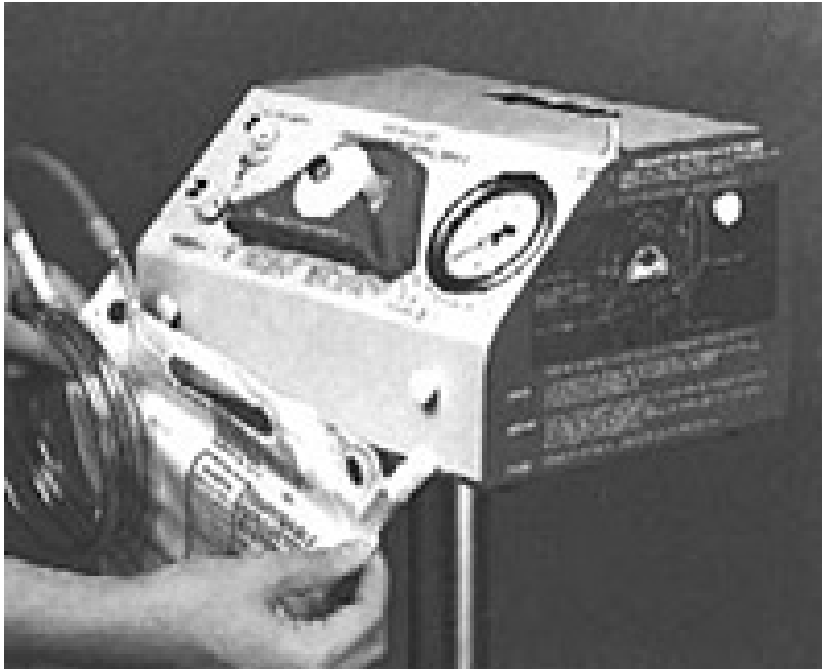
# IV Line

- IV stands for intravenous -the word comes from the Latin meaning “inside a vein”.





# Drainage Pump



- A drainage pump may be hooked up to a naso-gastric (NG) tube or to other tubes in order to keep secretions from accumulating in the stomach or to drain other areas when the infant is very sick.

# Phototherapy Unit

- This is a lamp unit that shines bright light - not ultraviolet light - onto a baby's naked skin.



# Transport Incubator

- A transport incubator is used when a sick or premature baby is moved from one hospital to another



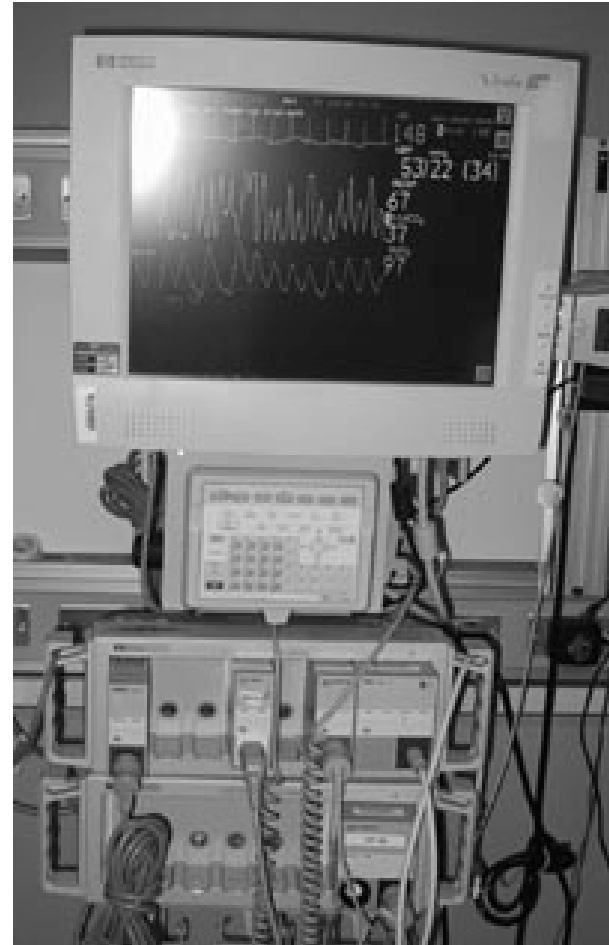
# Defibrillator



- A defibrillator is used to "shock" the heart from an abnormal rhythm pattern back into a normal rhythm.

# Monitor

- The monitoring system is attached to the baby via small sensor pads with lead wires that are stuck to her chest to check her vital signs.



# Vital signs include:

- Breathing rate
- Heart rate (pulse)
- Blood pressure
- Body temperature
- Oxygen saturation

# Apnea (Breathing Pauses)

- Baby's breathing pauses last 10-20 seconds
  - Causes heartbeat to slow
  - Skin becomes pale, mottled or bluish from lack of oxygen

# What causes Apnea?

- Immaturity of baby's nervous system, lungs, & airways
- Something blocking her breathing tube



# Bradycardia

- Slowing of the heartbeat (if it slows to less than 100 beats per minute)
- Usually caused by apnea
- May be caused by a heart problem

# Cyanosis

- Peripheral cyanosis: slightly bluish fingers or toes
- Central cyanosis: bluish color around her mouth, a bluish tongue or lips or an all-over bluish-pink skin tone

# Jaundice

- Jaundice is visible as a yellowish tinge to the skin and/or gums and to the white of the eyes
- The yellow tinge is caused by a pigment called bilirubin, which is produced when old red blood cells are broken down
- If the liver does not get rid of the bilirubin fast enough then it builds up in the baby's system
- It can take 5 - 10 days for the premature infant to remove bilirubin

# Anemia

- Anemia is a lack of red blood cells
- It is very common for a premature to be anemic
  - Babies get most of their iron from their mother in the last trimester (or last 12 weeks of pregnancy)
  - Premature babies have a lot of blood tests run, which removes a lot of blood from their system

# Infections

- Sepsis is a generalized infection of the blood

# Infections

- Necrotizing Enterocolitis is a potentially serious condition that affects the bowels.

# Infections

- Meningitis is an infection or inflammation of the membranes covering the spinal cord or brain