

# INVEST IN



Blakely, BCWH NICU Patient

## NICU NEEDS FOR BC'S MOST CRITICALLY ILL NEWBORNS

For some new parents, excitement over the arrival of a healthy newborn suddenly shifts when their infant is born with critical, life-threatening issues. Dreams of taking their baby home are shattered, replaced with tubes, monitors and breathing devices as their baby clings to life in the BC Women's Hospital + Health Centre (BCWH) Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

What offers families some peace of mind is knowing that their precious infant is being cared for by a dedicated staff of neonatal experts and supported by the latest specialized NICU equipment available. This equipment offers precise monitoring essential for managing the complex medical issues of fragile newborns to address specific conditions and reduce the risk of complications.

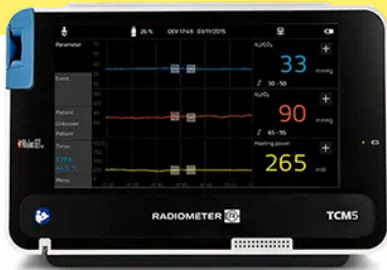
BCWH NICU urgently needs essential medical equipment to provide the highest level of care for BC's most vulnerable babies, including those born extremely premature, needing surgery or complex medical care. Please help support our smallest patients so they get strong and healthy by making these important resources available to the BCWH NICU.

LIFE FOR BC'S  
SMALLEST AND  
MOST VULNERABLE  
PATIENTS BEGINS  
IN BC WOMEN'S  
HOSPITAL + HEALTH  
CENTRE'S NICU.

# BCWH NICU NEEDS

In BC, when a baby is born too small or too sick, they come to the only regional quaternary level Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in the province. The NICU at BC Women's Hospital + Health Centre, the largest in the province, cares for 1,000 to 1,200 babies from across BC and the Yukon every year. Your support will provide babies with the life-saving equipment they need: high-tech machines that monitor their neurological functions, help them breathe, deliver targeted patient temperature management and more.

The BCWH NICU is in need of \$1.2 million to fund our most urgent and critical equipment needs to improve outcomes for NICU babies. Here are the important NICU equipment needs that we will support with your donations:



## 10 CO<sub>2</sub> MONITORS \$27,000 EACH

For babies born with under-developed lungs, each breath is precious and precarious. The transcutaneous CO<sub>2</sub> monitor picks up life-threatening CO<sub>2</sub> levels indicating respiratory distress. Your support will help to purchase these monitors, which helps ensure that each breath brings a baby a step closer to healing.

## 8 BRAINZ MONITORS \$52,000 EACH

Every blip, spike and subtle change on a brain monitor tells a story for newborns with brain injuries due to trauma, lack of oxygen or blood flow. A Brainz Monitor is a lifeline for tiny babies, allowing caregivers to quickly intervene when necessary. Your support will help ensure the best neurological outcomes possible.



## 4 CRITICOOL MINI \$50,000 EACH

The Criticool Mini is a lifeline when a newborn needs rapid cooling to treat a brain injury; its portable size makes it indispensable in the NICU and during transport to the BCWH NICU. Your support will help to safeguard these fragile lives from neurological impairment.



## 2 JET HFV VENTILATORS \$86,000 EACH

Severe respiratory complications are critical and common in vulnerable newborns. The Jet HFV Ventilator delivers gentle, precise and effective respiratory support to optimize lung function. Your support will help fund this life-saving technology for infants who are too weak to breathe on their own.

## 1 VENUE R4 ULTRASOUND \$90,000

Real-time assessments using bedside imaging is crucial for fragile babies too unstable for transport. With the Venue R4 ultrasound machine, healthcare providers can get a quick and accurate assessment and diagnosis. Your support will ensure the most critically ill newborns receive the least invasive care and improved outcomes.





Chelsea with baby Lucy, BCWH NICU patient

When caring for the unique and critical needs of the province's most vulnerable babies, it is imperative for BCWH NICU to have the most advanced medical equipment. It ensures a safer and more comfortable environment for newborns and speeds up the recovery process, reducing the length of stay so families can return home sooner. Your support will help ensure the best outcomes, from a quick diagnosis, to a timely treatment or an early intervention.

**“The dedication of the nurses and doctors at BC Women’s Hospital and the state-of-the-art technology in the NICU was instrumental in bringing my daughter and me to where we are today—a testament to the triumph of hope and healing.”**

**CHELSEA HOBBS, GRATEFUL PATIENT**

## LUCY’S NICU JOURNEY

Lucy’s mother Chelsea faced a remarkable number of daunting life-threatening challenges to her and her baby during pregnancy: a subchorionic hematoma, placenta previa and vasa previa. The expert team at BCWH swiftly responded to emergencies, ensuring the survival of both mother and baby. The decision was made to deliver Lucy at 31 weeks, and Lucy spent six weeks in the BCWH NICU, receiving critical care to help her grow stronger. Thanks to life-saving equipment and the amazing healthcare provided by the NICU team, today Lucy is a thriving, healthy toddler.



Lucy, BCWH NICU patient

**SUPPORT THE INCREDIBLE LEVEL OF CARE PROVIDED AT THE BCWH NICU SO THAT BABIES LIKE LUCY CAN CONTINUE TO THRIVE.**

## HOSPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

BC Women's Hospital + Health Centre is the provincial centre for high-risk maternity and a **world leader** in neonatal care.

BCWH is the largest labour and delivery hospital in Canada, delivering almost **7,000** babies annually, 1 in 5 of all babies born in BC.

BCWH has the only quaternary neonatal care centre and the **largest NICU** in the province, serving the sickest and most vulnerable preemies. It includes **70** single family rooms where parents are part of their baby's Core Care Team and encouraged to stay with their baby 24/7.

As many as **1,200** premature and critically ill infants every year get life-saving treatment in the BCWH NICU.

In 2017, the BCWH NICU was the first NICU in North America to open a **Mother Baby Care** unit to provide 'couplet care'—intensive care for newborns and postpartum care for mothers in the same room. In this unit, mothers can recover from birth without leaving their babies' side, so they are better able to respond to their babies' needs.



Ethan, BCWH NICU Patient

## PLEASE HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR BC'S SMALLEST PATIENTS

Thanks to you and your incredible support, when a family walks through the doors of the NICU at BC Women's Hospital + Health Centre, they will have all the assurances that their tiny bundle of joy will receive the best care possible. Your investment towards BCWH's urgently needed equipment will help ensure this world-class facility continues to be at the forefront in delivering high-quality specialized neonatal care in BC.

The impact of your gift will mean the world to the families of premature and critically ill infants. Thank you for giving BC newborns and their families hope for a healthy future.



# DONATE NOW

[GIVING@BCWOMENSFOUNDATION.ORG](mailto:GIVING@BCWOMENSFOUNDATION.ORG)

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We acknowledge that we carry out our work on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples – xʷməθkʷəyem (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Selilwetaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. When we refer to "women", we include women in all their diversity inclusive of the LGBTQ2SIA+ community.

\*Consistent with our fiscal sustainability policy, a contribution from all designated donations will be directed to support the work of BCWHF in fulfilling its mandate to ensure women in BC have equitable access to quality healthcare.

BC WOMEN'S  
HEALTH  
FOUNDATION



BCWHF | NICU NEEDS 2024