

American Academy of Pediatrics
Definitions, Capabilities, and Provider Types: Neonatal Levels of Care

Level of Care	Capabilities	Provider Types ^a
Level I Well newborn nursery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide neonatal resuscitation at every delivery • Evaluate and provide postnatal care to stable term newborn infants • Stabilize and provide care for infants born 35–37 wk gestation who remain physiologically stable • Stabilize newborn infants who are ill and those born at <35 wk gestation until transfer to a higher level of care 	Pediatricians, family physicians, nurse practitioners, and other advanced practice registered nurses
Level II Special care nursery	Level I capabilities plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide care for infants born ≥32 wk gestation and weighing ≥1500 g who have physiologic immaturity or who are moderately ill with problems that are expected to resolve rapidly and are not anticipated to need subspecialty services on an urgent basis • Provide care for infants convalescing after intensive care • Provide mechanical ventilation for brief duration (<24 h) or continuous positive airway pressure or both • Stabilize infants born before 32 wk gestation and weighing less than 1500 g until transfer to a neonatal intensive care facility 	Level I health care providers plus: Pediatric hospitalists, neonatologist, and neonatal nurse practitioners.
Level III NICU	Level II capabilities plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide sustained life support • Provide comprehensive care for infants born <32 wks gestation and weighing <1500 g and infants born at all gestational ages and birth weights with critical illness • Provide prompt and readily available access to a full range of pediatric medical subspecialists, pediatric surgical specialists, pediatric anesthesiologists, and pediatric ophthalmologists • Provide a full range of respiratory support that may include conventional and/or high-frequency ventilation and inhaled nitric oxide • Perform advanced imaging, with interpretation on an urgent basis, including computed tomography, MRI, and echocardiography 	Level II health care providers plus: Pediatric medical subspecialists ^b , <i>pediatric anesthesiologists^b</i> , pediatric surgeons, and pediatric ophthalmologists ^b .
Level IV Regional NICU	Level III capabilities plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located within an institution with the capability to provide surgical repair of complex congenital or acquired conditions • Maintain a full range of pediatric medical subspecialists, pediatric surgical subspecialists, and pediatric anesthesiologists at the site • Facilitate transport and provide outreach education 	Level III health care providers plus: Pediatric surgical subspecialists