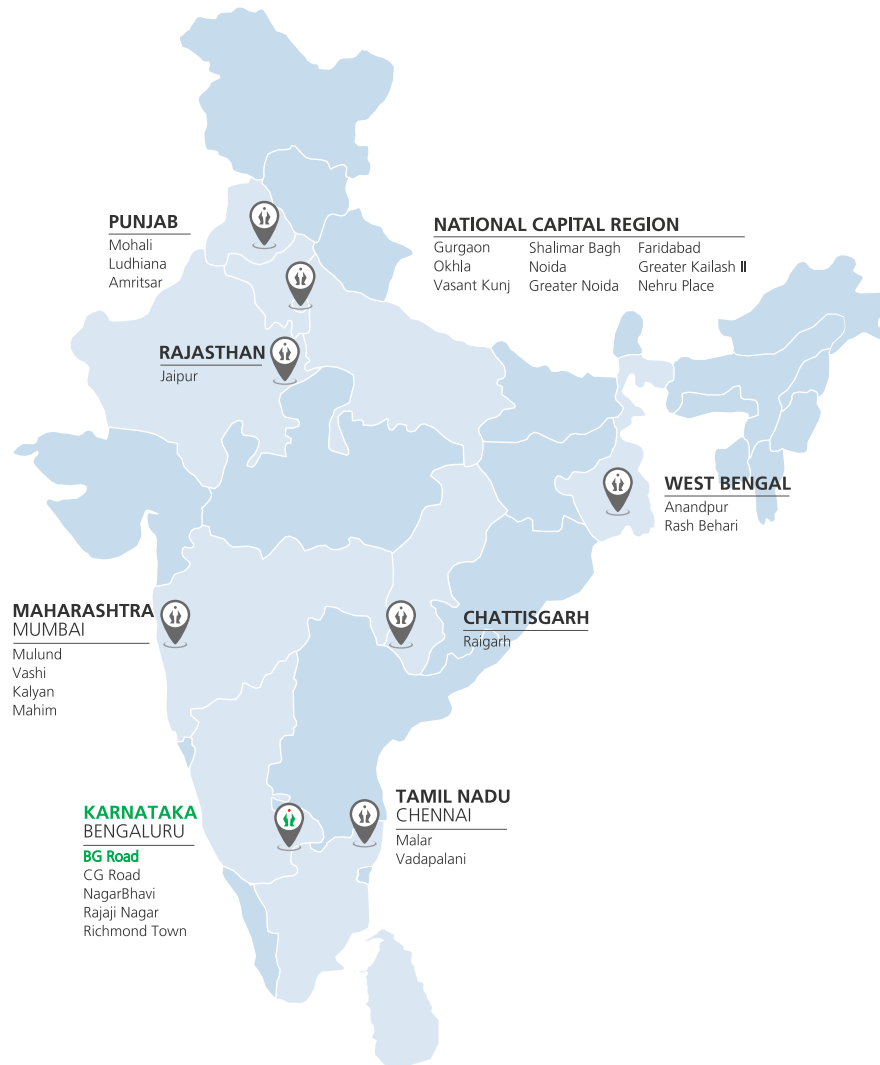


THE FORTIS HOSPITAL NETWORK



FORTIS HOSPITAL LIMITED

154/9, Bannerghatta Main Road, Opposite IIM - B,
Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560076 (India)

Tel: 080 6621 4444 | 96633 67253 | **Emergency No.: 96860 96860**

E-mail: care.bng@fortishealthcare.com | Web: www.fortishealthcare.com



Scan the QR code
to download the
myFortis app



NEONATOLOGY



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



? 1 WHAT IS NEONATOLOGY?

The term neonate is used to refer to newborn babies, or more specifically to babies who are less than four weeks old. **Neonatology** is a subspecialty of paediatrics that consists of the medical care of new born infants, especially the ill or premature new born. Neonatologists are the doctors who specializes in neonatology.

? 2 WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A NEONATOLOGIST & A PAEDIATRICIAN?

A general paediatrician is a medical professional who offers routine care and treatment for children suffering from various diseases. Neonatal specialists are only concerned with the health of infants and the variables that might influence their survival and development.

? 3 WHAT IS NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (NICU)?

New-born babies who need intensive medical care are often put in a special area of the hospital called the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

? 4 WHICH BABIES NEED NICU?

- Most babies admitted to the NICU are premature (born before 37 weeks of pregnancy), have low birthweight (less than 5.5 pounds), or have a medical condition that requires special care. Twins, triplets, and other multiples often are admitted to the NICU, as they tend to be born earlier and smaller than single birth babies. In the NICU, premature babies receive care in a safe, controlled environment. An incubator helps provide the baby with a constant body temperature. These babies are given high-calorie nutrition, intravenous hydration and other therapies based on any other conditions.

- Babies with medical conditions such as heart problems, infections, or birth defects are also cared for in the NICU.
- **Respiratory distress syndrome (RDS)**, also called Hyaline Membrane Disease (HMD), is a breathing disorder in newborns caused by immature lungs. Babies with mild RDS can be treated by using a machine that pushes air in through the nose to help keep the lungs distended (CPAP). Babies with severe RDS can be treated with a breathing tube, as well as placing the baby on a ventilator.
- **Low blood sugar (hypoglycemia)** is usually seen in premature babies, babies born to a mother experiencing gestational diabetes or infants with an infection.
- **Difficult birth** can result in decreased blood flow and oxygen to the baby. Should this happen, neonatologists can treat the baby with whole body cooling, a method to help decrease brain injury that could occur due to decreased blood flow.
- **Maternal chorioamnionitis** is a condition in which bacteria infect the membranes (chorion and amnion) surrounding the baby, the amniotic fluid and/or umbilical cord. Bacteria can cause infections in both the mother and fetus. This condition puts a baby at a high risk for an infection. After birth, the baby may need antibiotics to clear the infection.
- **Sepsis or infection** is more likely in a baby born early than in a full-term baby. Antibiotics may be used based on the type of infection and laboratory tests.

? 5 WHO WILL CARE FOR THE BABY IN THE NICU?

Some of the specially-trained healthcare providers who may care for your baby include: **Neonatologists, specially –trained nurses, lactation consultants**,. This is a paediatrician with extra training in the care of sick and premature babies. The neonatologist (often called the attending physician) supervises pediatric fellows and residents, nurse practitioners, and nurses who care for babies in the NICU.

- **Neonatal fellow.** This is a pediatrician getting extra training in the care of sick and premature babies. He or she may do procedures and direct your child's care.
- **Pediatric resident.** This is a doctor who is getting extra training in the care of children. He or she may do or assist in procedures and help direct your child's care.

6

7

7



9

9

NOTES

NOTES

NOTES