

For Immediate Release

Contact: Sarah Doyle (707) 525-5300 x3246

Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital Receives CCS Designation as Community NICU

UCSF Intensive Care Nursery at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital recognized for providing advanced level of care to critically ill newborns.

(Santa Rosa, Calif. – April 2, 2015) The UCSF Intensive Care Nursery (ICN) at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital has been designated a Community Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) by California Children’s Services (CCS) for their ability to provide outstanding care to fragile, critically ill newborns. In addition, CSS re-designated the Pediatric Department as a Pediatric Community Hospital for its continued ability to provide outstanding care to patients under 21 years of age.

As a designated Community NICU, Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital’s ICN offers the highest level of neonatal care in the North Bay Area. A joint partnership between UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital in San Francisco and Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, the ICN employs a multidisciplinary team of neonatal experts who are amongst the most highly skilled in the region. Among them are physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, lactation specialists, and other experts who have met the strict guidelines put forth by CCS for their ability to care for severely fragile newborns affected by life-threatening medical conditions.

“We’ve always been proud of the excellent neonatal care that we offer at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital,” says Dr. Alan Shotkin, neonatologist and medical director of the Intensive Care Nursery. “With this new designation, we’re confident that our high level of care will continue to greatly benefit the infants, new mothers, and families within our community.”

To receive an NICU designation, neonatal units must adhere to strict guidelines set forth by CCS. Nurseries must be equipped to treat a wide range of severe medical complications that can affect premature and full-term infants, such as respiratory failure, neonatal sepsis, and birth asphyxia hernia.

At Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, the ICN benefits from a team of board-certified or board-eligible pediatricians who are available 24 hours a day, as well as nurses and respiratory therapists who are certified in the Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP). A close working relationship with UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital provides additional resources, such as telemedicine and pediatric subspecialists when they are needed.

More information about the CCS NICU designation can be found at <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ccs/Pages/ProviderStandards.aspx>

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About Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital

Located approximately 50 miles north of the Golden Gate Bridge, Santa Rosa Memorial is a state-of-the-art, 278-bed acute care hospital. As the designated Level II Regional Trauma Center for Sonoma, Mendocino, Napa and Lake Counties, Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital provides a wide range of specialty services including critical care, cardiovascular care, stroke care, women's and children's services, cancer care and orthopedics. The hospital is home to the Norma & Evert Person Heart & Vascular Institute and the UCSF Intensive Care Nursery.

About St. Joseph Health, Sonoma County

St. Joseph Health in Sonoma County is a not-for-profit provider of integrated health care, sponsored by the St. Joseph Health Ministry. Its mission is to extend the healing ministry of Jesus in the tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange by improving health and quality of life in the communities it serves. Entities include the 278-bed Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital (the region's Level II Trauma Center), the 80-bed Petaluma Valley Hospital, Memorial Hospice, Hospice of Petaluma, North County Hospice, St. Joseph Urgent Care centers, and St. Joseph Home Care Network. The organization's more than 2,000 local employees offer residents of California's North Coast a spectrum of healthcare services. These include Family Birthing, Neonatal Intensive Care, Pediatrics supported by on-site pediatric hospitalists 24/7, urgent care, preventive care and health promotion, outpatient behavioral health care, palliative care, rehabilitation, and community benefit programs. Visit stjoesonoma.org to learn more.

About California Children's Services (CCS)

Managed by the California Department of Health Care Services, California Children's Services (CCS) is a statewide program that provides diagnostic and treatment services, medical case management, and physical and occupational therapy services to children with eligible chronic medical conditions. The CSS NICU designation was developed to provide standards for neonatal intensive care in the state of California.