



Medical Rounds in the NICU includes parents and many NICU staff members, including the attending neonatologist, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse, pharmacist, nutritionist, respiratory therapist and social worker.

### *What are Rounds?*

We take advantage of every contact with a family to provide information about their baby(ies). As a key member of your baby's team, joining Rounds is one of many ways to be actively involved in your baby's care. Each morning the medical team (which includes doctors, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, clinical nurses, respiratory therapists, dietitians, pharmacists, social workers, and other health care providers) meets to discuss the condition and care of all the babies in the NICU. Parents at BIDMC are always welcome to join in Rounds.



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# The Parent's Role at MEDICAL ROUNDS

*A Guide for  
NICU Families*



### *What is Discussed at Rounds?*

Your baby's condition and progress are reviewed at Rounds. The discussion may include:

- Changes in your baby's condition from previous Rounds
- New lab or radiology study results (such as x-rays)
- Daily treatment plans
- Long-term planning/ progress towards discharge

The discussion will focus on your baby's daily plan with each health care professional sharing his or her expertise and insights. The attending doctor will oversee the collaborative decision-making used to develop your baby's treatment plan.

Because this is a teaching hospital, Rounds are also an opportunity for teaching and a discussion of related medical topics.

### *When Do Rounds Occur?*

Rounds typically begin around 8:00 a.m. The healthcare team meets to discuss each baby in the NICU. The timing will vary and will depend on many factors in the NICU. For example, we try to round first on babies who are going home.

### *What is the Difference Between Rounds and Family Meetings?*

Family Meetings are an interactive opportunity to talk to you about your baby in-depth, to provide updates on tests and diagnoses, bring in specialists if needed, and to clarify any and all questions you might have. Rounds, on the other hand, are more of a medical progress update that allows the clinical team to make treatment decisions for the day ahead. We'd like to emphasize that Rounds do not replace Family Meetings.

### *Are Parents Required to Attend Rounds?*

Absolutely not. It is your choice to attend Rounds. You are welcome to come as often as you like, just occasionally, or not at all.

### *How Can Parents Join Rounds?*

To join Rounds, just let your baby's nurse know that you'd like to join. Because Rounds are not done at the bedside in our NICU, your baby's nurse will come get you when it's time to discuss your baby. Each day, participation in Rounds is your choice. Also, due to fluctuations in work flow in the NICU, we may not be able to accommodate all parents with specific times in joining Rounds.

### *What is the Parent's Role in Rounds?*

You are an integral member of your child's health care team! Rounds are a time for parents to:

- Listen to the medical information presented
- Ask questions
- Provide their perspectives

The medical team has a large number of patients to round on each day and may not have time to answer all of your questions during Rounds. It may be best to focus on one or two questions or issues that are most important for you to discuss during Rounds.

### *What if Parents Have Other Questions or Issues to Discuss with the Care Team?*

If you have additional questions or would like the doctor to review the treatment plan with you, please let the team or your social worker know. We're always happy to discuss your baby with you.

