When your baby needs special care, the Division of Neonatal Medicine and the Jennifer Gandel Kachura Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) can provide a full range of treatments for premature and critically ill newborns. Its state certification as a Level III B NICU means the division has access to a range of pediatric specialists and offers a variety of imaging capabilities and anesthesia services.

The unit includes 21 infant beds and can care for premature infants as young as 23 weeks gestation to full-term infants who have significant transitional issues or underlying medical or surgical problems. Our team of health care professionals is ready to provide the very best possible care with highly sophisticated technology in our state-of-the-art NICU and new labor and delivery suite.

The unit is staffed by specially trained neonatologists; neonatal nurse practitioners and nurses; pediatric residents who are specializing in treating children and treating sick newborns; a lactation consultant; and occupational, physical and respiratory therapists. We handle some 2,200 deliveries each year and more than 180 admissions to the NICU, with approximately one-third of those infants weighing less than 1,500 grams.

Located within a major community hospital, we have access to a full range of pediatric subspecialists, including pediatric surgery, pediatric cardiology, pediatric gastroenterology and pediatric endocrinology. Together we provide 24/7 in-house coverage with physicians on-site to attend high-risk deliveries and to direct the medical care of infants in the NICU around the clock.

Most preterm babies stay in the hospital until their due date. As your baby grows and develops, he or she may be moved to the Special Care Nursery. The well-baby nursery is designed to provide unified mother-baby nursing for infants who are term or near term and who have no acute medical problems. Our lactation consultant will help you care for and breastfeed your baby; the NICU includes a breast pump room. Our team provides extensive support and education to prepare you to provide ongoing infant care at home.

Many of our physicians hold joint faculty appointments at the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins Hospital, which allows the Children’s Hospital to participate in the training of medical students, allows us to send our residents to Hopkins and Maryland for elective training, and enables us to collaborate on a number of statewide initiatives.

The division is part of Pediatrix Medical Group, a national physician group practice that provides neonatal intensive care for 20 percent of all infants born in the United States and develops collaborative quality improvement efforts to enhance the care of neonates and sick newborns. The division was among the first of its kind to join the Vermont Oxford Neonatal Network, an international collaboration of 800 NICUs. It has been recognized by the Vermont Oxford Neonatal Network as a center of excellence since 1997. Sinai is a primary tertiary neonatal unit for Carroll Hospital Center, providing 24/7 neonatal consultation and transport to Carroll County community pediatricians.
Conditions Treated
• Prematurity and associated disorders
• Respiratory diseases
• Transition issues
• Genetic abnormalities
• Congenital surgical conditions

Specialty Services
• Pediatric surgery
• Echocardiography
• Laboratory medicine
• Radiology (ultrasound, CT and MRI)

Neonatal Transport Program
The Neonatal Transport program is available 24/7, and members stabilize and then transport sick neonates from referring facilities to Sinai’s NICU. The team includes a neonatal nurse practitioner, respiratory therapist, paramedic and emergency medical technician. The transport program provides immediate feedback to the referring hospital by Sinai’s attending neonatologist. When no longer critical, patients can be transferred back to the referring hospital.

Family-Centered Care
Our physicians, nurses and other staff take time to speak with you and your family at length about the health of your infant and to help you deal with the fears and uncertainties you may experience during this difficult time. Parents are welcome to spend the night at the hospital, and you are encouraged to attend medical rounds with the physicians and be actively involved in decision making about the care of your infant. The NICU offers a family room, which provides a private resting space for two primary caregivers involved in their newborn’s care. We encourage you to begin building a relationship, holding your infant from the earliest possible moment in the delivery room. Parents and grandparents may visit at any hour of the day.

For more information about the Herman & Walter Samuelson Children’s Hospital at Sinai, visit:
http://www.lifebridgehealth.org/ChildrensHospital/

To access the Children’s Hospital Pediatric Inpatient portal that includes health information, activities and games for parents, kids and teens, visit: http://www.lifebridgehealth.org/kidshealth.