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Changing the face of NICU

The efficiency of Centricity* Perinatal in
River Oaks Hospital’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
River Oaks Hospital
Flowood, MS
As of March 1, 2011

- Health Management Associates hospital corporation
- 2 Hospital WAN
  - River Oaks Hospital
  - Woman’s Hospital
- Using Centricity Perinatal in L&D, PP, NICU at River Oaks Hospital
- Using Centricity Perinatal In L&D only at Woman’s Hospital
- GE equipment in L&D and NICU
- River Oaks Hospital – L&D and PP
  - 1,900 annual deliveries
  - High-risk L&D
  - 13 L&D rooms
  - Five antepartum
  - 18 PP
  - Three ORs
  - Up to eight cases scheduled a day on L&D
  - Centricity Perinatal is considered the “legal” OB record
- River Oaks Hospital – NICU
  - 33 Private rooms
  - Micro-premies
  - Eight neonatologists
  - Five NICUs in the Jackson Area – River Oaks Hospital considered the “Center of Excellence” in the region for L&D and NICU
  - All babies less than 1,000 grams are transferred into this NICU
  - Went live in 2010

The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at River Oaks Hospital in Flowood, Mississippi—designated as the area’s “Center of Excellence”—trusts its tiny patients to GE Healthcare’s Centricity Perinatal electronic documentation system. First utilized in the hospital’s Labor and Delivery unit 10 years ago, Centricity Perinatal’s presence has been expanded, much to the delight of River Oaks Hospitals’ leadership.

“We are proud to offer this level of care to our tiniest, most delicate patients,” said Denny Bruns, President and CEO of River Oaks Hospital. “River Oaks Hospital continually strives to proactively provide quality care to the community we serve.”

As the only hospital in the Jackson area to feature the system’s capability and technology in the NICU, Centricity Perinatal automatically populates the preemie’s record with relevant maternal and delivery information immediately following birth.

The Level IIIb NICU at River Oaks Hospital is the region’s referral center for all infants weighing less than 1,000 grams. It’s paving the way and raising the bar for area NICUs by implementing Centricity Perinatal into the care of all of their infants.

And when seconds count in a busy, complicated NICU, there isn’t time to waste.

“Centricity Perinatal streamlines the charting process allowing me to spend more time with my patients and families,” said Laura Lay, Registered Nurse at River Oaks Hospital.

According to fellow River Oaks Hospital RN Helen Warren, Centricity Perinatal helps improve continuity of care by providing doctors, nurse practitioners, and other RNs with an organized, understandable picture of a patient’s status and mother’s record.
“It gives me the ability to look up the mother’s information [when] in the NICU, which is vital [for the infant],” Warren said. It’s a benefit especially useful in emergency situations, which occur on a daily basis.

Katie Hughes-Crocker, RN and Computer Systems Clinical Coordinator at River Oaks Hospital, echoes Warren’s positive Centricity Perinatal review.

“This program is very easy to use,” Hughes-Crocker said. “My nurses are comfortable with the charting. I can design it to fit our needs.”

Hughes also praises Centricity Perinatal’s ability to increase accessibility for physicians while cutting back on time spent dealing with interfaces. Time is at a premium in a busy NICU; the average stay may last three months or longer and the discharge process is lengthy and complicated. However, Centricity Perinatal helps fine-tune the administrative work associated with a patient’s discharge planning, making it easier and more efficient.

“Centricity Perinatal provides detailed discharge summaries which can be provided for multiple follow-up visits to specialty physicians and pediatricians to assure all information regarding the infant’s NICU stay and follow-up care is communicated in a timely manner,” said RN and NICU Discharge Planner Lori Luther. “Appropriate care is maintained even after discharge from the NICU.”

From admission to discharge, the need for streamlined documentation is critical for excellent NICU coordination of care. River Oaks Hospital has experienced the Centricity Perinatal advantage—and appreciates the difference.

“We absolutely love Centricity Perinatal,” said Wendy Oswalt, RN. “I don’t think any of us would go back to paper again.”

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