

LEVEL II SPECIAL CARE NURSERY

CASE FOR SUPPORT

For nearly 30 years, Emerson Hospital has provided exceptional care for babies born at 34 weeks or greater in its Level II Special Care Nursery, a sub-unit within the hospital's Clough Birthing Center. A Level II nursery provides care to infants who are at moderate risk of serious complications related to immaturity or illness, or such issues as jaundice, trouble eating or staying warm; all of which require close monitoring and assessment.



Under the direction of a Massachusetts General Hospital neonatologist, a specialist who cares for premature or ill newborns, Emerson's special care nursery provides comprehensive, multidisciplinary care with round-the-clock staffing. Additionally, a board-certified pediatrician

is on duty at all times. The Special Care Nursery also stabilizes and manages babies born at Emerson who may require transfer to a Level III facility for more advanced care. Many Level III infants return to Emerson once they are ready to gain strength closer to home. Stays in Emerson's Special Care Nursery range from two days to as much as six weeks.

From 2006 – 2008, Emerson's birthing center underwent a major expansion adding over 8,000 square feet of new construction to its existing Birthing Center while dramatically refurbishing the current post-partum rooms to provide every patient a private room. Capacity doubled as a result of this expansion. However, no modifications or upgrades were undertaken in the Level II Special Care Nursery because there was no need for substantial improvements at that time.



In the intervening years, however, the number of births increased and greater use of the nursery has taken its toll. The space is inefficiently laid out, and equipment and furnishings are outdated. Families need more space to interact with their tiny infants and staff needs a better organized setting to do their work. By improving the nursery layout and incorporating state-of-the-art-technology and design elements such as acoustical tile to reduce excess noise, the Level II special care nursery will match the quality setting of the entire Clough Birthing Center.

PROJECT ELEMENTS

While square footage in the updated Level II Special Care Nursery will remain unchanged, the comprehensive reorganization of space and replacement of all furnishings will create a more efficient and appropriate setting for Emerson's most vulnerable patients and their families. The environment within a special care nursery is full of stressful events for a newborn. Premature infants must expend a significant amount of energy mediating these stressful stimuli. Our goal will be to remove as many of these stressors as possible, so that these babies can reserve their energy for healing, which may result in a reduction in their stay and earlier release to their families.

To accomplish this, we will address the needs of these infant's sensory systems. To reduce excess noise, new acoustical tiles will be installed. The curtains separating each patient bay will be replaced and



will be color coordinated with adjacent walls to contribute to a soothing, more calming environment. More efficient built-ins will be constructed eliminating large and awkward storage units. New countertops and all furnishings will be replaced. All existing wood will be removed and replaced with surface materials that can be easily sterilized. Oxygen outlets will be rebuilt.

PROJECT BUDGET: \$250,000

Funding for the Level II Special Care Nursery upgrade will be a combination of philanthropy and the hospital’s capital budget. Named gifts in support of this project demonstrate a donor’s commitment to outstanding healthcare, provide essential financial support, and inspire others to ensure that premature newborns in the Emerson community will be cared for in a state-of-the-art facility designed for their unique needs.

In addition to specific named gift opportunities listed below, Emerson Hospital will recognize all donors to this effort who contribute \$10,000 or above. Their names will appear on a special campaign plaque that will be prominently displayed within the Clough Birthing Center. At whatever level of support you provide, your gift will demonstrably improve the environment of care for these youngest, most vulnerable Emerson patients.

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Name Level II Special Care Nursery	\$ 100,000
Patient Bay (3) each (committed)	\$ 25,000

If you are interested in learning more about this initiative, or you would like to make a gift, please contact Melissa Saalfield, at: (978) 287-3583 or msaalfield@emersonhosp.org. Gifts may be made as outright cash donations, gifts of stock, or pledged over five years.

Thank you for your consideration. Your tax deductible gift will support Emerson Hospital’s efforts to provide outstanding, personalized care for which Emerson is known.