• **Resuscitation**: YES
  Will include one or more of: bag and mask ventilation, continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP), intubation, mechanical ventilation, intravenous access, chest compressions and epinephrine

• **Painful procedures**: YES

• **Duration of care for the baby**: Months in the NICU (neonatal intensive care unit).

• **Support Available**: YES
PALLIATIVE COMFORT CARE

You will have the option of having keepsakes in memory of your baby.

- **Resuscitation:** NO
  
  *Your baby will receive warm blankets, and be placed with you in a comfortable room. Sugar water and other pain-relieving medications will be given if necessary.*

- **Painful procedures:** NO

- **Duration of care for the baby:** Minutes to hours

- **Support available:** YES

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This is a photo of an extremely premature baby born at 24 weeks and receiving intensive care.

Extremely premature babies are only a little longer than an adult’s hand.
Palliative care gives you time to hold your baby (can be skin-to-skin or in a warm blanket) and ensure comfort.
# INTENSIVE CARE OR PALLIATIVE COMFORT CARE?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>INTENSIVE CARE</th>
<th>PALLIATIVE COMFORT CARE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Survival</td>
<td>Possible</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term Neuro-developmental Disability</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal Survival/Physical Health</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact on Quality of Life</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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QUALITY OF LIFE (QOL)

PREMATURE INFANTS

Most studies report minimal difference in self-reported QOL compared to full-term children

• Chance of ongoing medical problems from being born extremely premature

• Chance of limits in ability to perform everyday tasks

PARENTS / CAREGIVERS

Studies report both negative and positive impacts compared to parents of full-term children

• Emotional health

• Stress

• Family and marital bonds

• Confidence in parenting ability

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MATERNAL IMPACT

SURVIVAL

• Dying during pregnancy is very rare
• Related to maternal health condition

PHYSICAL HEALTH

• Choice for baby has no direct impact
• Related to maternal health condition
• Caesarean section

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# Things That Affect Survival and Risk of Disability

## Survival/Disability Compared to Average:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Worsen</strong></th>
<th><strong>Improve</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Lower birth weight</td>
<td>• Higher birth weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Early in week of gestation</td>
<td>• Late in week of gestation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• No maternal steroids</td>
<td>• Maternal steroids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Male</td>
<td>• Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Multiples</td>
<td>• Singleton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Some ultrasound findings (e.g. no amniotic fluid for weeks) can affect survival and/or the risk of disability.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Other potential points of interest for parents to discuss with their healthcare provider

NICU:
• Visits
• How does it work? Who is involved?
• Being a parent of a child in the NICU
• Postnatal complications
• Feeding, including breast milk

Beyond the NICU:
• Re-hospitalizations
• Other long-term outcomes

Note: There are other potential concerns or interests beyond the ones listed here. Parents are encouraged to ask their healthcare provider for more information.
Acronyms:

• AOP – apnea of prematurity
• Anemia – anemia of prematurity
• BPD – bronchopulmonary dysplasia
• CLD – chronic lung disease
• EBM – expressed breast milk
• EOS/LOS – early or late onset sepsis
• IVH – intraventricular hemorrhage
• NEC – necrotizing enterocolitis
• PDA – patent ductus arteriosus
• RDS – respiratory distress syndrome
• ROP – retinopathy of prematurity
• TPN – total parenteral nutrition
• UVC – umbilical venous catheter
SURVIVAL
In Canada

22 WEEKS
~500 g
~1 pound, 1 ounce

25 out of 100 babies will LIVE
75 out of 100 babies will DIE

Range: 19-31%

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There is no accurate representation of the true probability of survival of babies born at 22 weeks in Ottawa due to the few numbers of babies born at 22 weeks.

Between 2015-2019, we have had 12 attempts at intensive care for babies born at 22 weeks in Ottawa. Of these attempts, 3 babies survived to discharge from the NICU.
NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY (NDD) 22 WEEKS

SEVERE NDD
Range: 6-37%

MODERATE-OR-SEVERE NDD
Range: 23-64%

Data on this card calculated from 24 babies given intensive care at 22 weeks who survived to discharge.

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Survival of babies born at 23 weeks who receive intensive care

45 out of 100 babies will LIVE
55 out of 100 babies will DIE

Range: 42-48%

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SURVIVAL
In Ottawa

23 WEEKS

47 out of 100 babies will LIVE
53 out of 100 babies will DIE

*These numbers are based on: 9 babies survived out of 19 babies who received intensive care at 23 weeks.

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NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY (NDD) 23 WEEKS

Disability of babies born at 23 weeks who receive intensive care and survive

SEVERE NDD
Range: 12-24%

Average

MODERATE-OR-SEVERE NDD
Range: 31-52%

Average

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Survival of babies born at 24 weeks who receive intensive care

69 out of 100 babies will LIVE
31 out of 100 babies will DIE

Range: 67-71%

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SURVIVAL
In Ottawa

24 WEEKS

69 out of 100 babies will LIVE
31 out of 100 babies will DIE

*These numbers are based on: 27 babies survived out of 39 babies who received intensive care at 24 weeks.
Disability of babies born at 24 weeks who receive intensive care and survive.

**SEVERE NDD**
Range: 12-23%
17%

**MODERATE-OR-SEVERE NDD**
Range: 25-39%
32%

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Survival of babies born at 25 weeks who receive intensive care

80 out of 100 babies will LIVE
20 out of 100 babies will DIE

Range: 78-82%

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SURVIVAL
In Ottawa

25 WEEKS

73 out of 100 babies will LIVE
27 out of 100 babies will DIE

*These numbers are based on: 36 babies survived out of 49 babies who received intensive care at 25 weeks.

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Disability of babies born at 25 weeks who receive intensive care and survive

**SEVERE NDD**
Range: 7-16%

11%

**MODERATE-OR-SEVERE NDD**
Range: 18-29%

23%
Survival increases by gestational age.

~2010-2018 survival data from Canadian Neonatal Network~

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Number of babies who may have severe disability out of 100 babies who receive intensive care and survive

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Number of babies who may have moderate-or-severe disability out of 100 babies who receive intensive care and survive

Weeks of Gestation

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