

The Yellow Brick Road: Supporting the Hospitalized Infant and Family Through Their JourneySM



Children's
Medical
Ventures

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This program provides caregivers an opportunity to step back and examine the parent-infant journey from the crisis of the baby's hospital arrival to the long-awaited discharge home. Following the family from the pregnancy through the birth and then the transition to a gradual acceptance of the baby's medical condition, this program encourages staff to appreciate the challenges that the critically ill infant, family and staff must face during the hospital stay.

Parents awaiting the birth of a healthy new baby are often traumatized by the birth of a premature or ill infant. The labor and delivery suite is replaced by the operating room and an emergency birth; the newborn placed on mom's chest is replaced by a medical team stabilizing the infant; and the baby's bedroom will remain empty as the infant must spend the first few weeks or months of life in a high-tech intensive care setting. Not unlike Dorothy's unplanned descent into Oz after the tornado, the family of the hospitalized infant



experiences heightened apprehension as they enter into this strange land - The Intensive Care Unit. Families are unfamiliar with the staff, the equipment, the language and most importantly, their new critically ill baby.



Throughout this unique educational offering, the clinically active facilitators blend the parent viewpoint with the infant's medical and developmental needs to help staff encourage competent, confident parenting. Family needs must be carefully considered in conjunction with the complex medical diagnoses. Caregivers are reminded during this day-long educational journey how to reduce stress and build trusting relationships with parents who are frightened and unsure about the medical future of their baby. Communication strategies are devised to empower staff and to encourage families to be a vital part of the healthcare team.

Interactive scenarios, didactic presentations, active problem-solving and group discussions help make this program dynamic. Equipped with current evidence-based knowledge, caregivers will elevate their clinical knowledge base and support families in a practical way. Integrating family centered care principles into the daily hospital routine positively encourages families as they journey on a personal 'yellow brick road' to a safe discharge home.

Program Topics Include:

- Antecedent events prior to birth, including parental preparations and infant development
- The Golden Hours: rescue, transport, family presence and the developmentally supportive admission
- Overriding developmental needs which transcend the complex diagnosis of the infant/family
- Caring strategies with hands-on solution workshop
- Care for the caregiver: identifying and managing stress

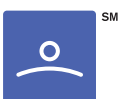


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For more information about this one of a kind program, please call 781-871-6226 or 866-866-6750.

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