Special Care Nursery Caring For OUR Smallest Patients

Kiley and Kevin McAllister’s childbirth story is full of “ifs.” What if Quinn had been born at 32 weeks gestation and later? What if their twins had decided to make an appearance a week earlier? What if Kiley hadn’t mentioned to her doctor some strange symptoms she was having that January morning? Their journey could have been much different.

As it turned out, one of the twins, baby Kieran, was one of the first patients in the new special care nursery at WCH, which kept the family together at a very vulnerable time.

The unit is really a “hospital within a hospital,” said Angie Chapman, BSN, RN, and assistant manager at the Women’s Pavilion. “It’s a level of facility that allows us to take care of babies born at 32 weeks gestation and later.”

Staffed with Akron Children’s Hospital personnel, clinicians are “available 24/7 to all babies born at WCH,” said Dr. Benekos, OB/GYN and the maternal-fetal medicine specialist for Akron Children’s, which was reassuring to the expectant mother.

At 33 weeks 6 days, Kiley happened to mention to Dr. Benekos that her hands and feet were itchy. Blood tests revealed she had HELLP Syndrome, a type of preeclampsia or toxemia that can affect the expectant mom’s liver and have serious consequences for both mother and baby. Dr. Benekos recommended induction labor. On January 22, at 10:46 pm, Quinn McAllister was born. Three minutes later his twin brother, Kieran, joined the world.

“When we heard the twins crying, it was a tremendous relief,” said Kieren. “We were very happy.”

However, it soon became apparent that Kieran was having respiratory problems. He was taken to the Special Care Nursery, where he received additional care and monitoring. “Because Kieran didn’t have to be transported to Akron, I was able to care for Kiley and Quinn and still walk over and see Kieran,” said Kieren. “If he had been moved to Akron, it would have made things so much more difficult — even with simple things like getting breast milk to him when he needed it.”

When Quinn and Kiley were released a few days later, the hospital let the family stay with Kiley so they could remain together “keeping families together near their home is a philosophy that WCH and Akron Children’s share,” said Tara. “We’re thrilled to have Children’s partner with us. The journey of working together has been very enjoyable.”

Kiley and Kevin agree that bringing the Level II Special Care Nursery to Wooster was a good idea. “The staff was very accommodating. The birth was a positive experience in every way. It made it so much easier that we weren’t separated during this time.”

“They’re a wonderful couple and we’re so glad both babies are doing well. It was a good feeling to be able to keep them together and help them through that first week,” said Tara. “I’m so pleased the special care nursery was up and running!” — written by Jackie Buckwalter
The Ohio State University and Wooster Community Hospital working meeting my needs throughout the days and
that!” Barnes said of Dr. Todd’s daily hospital care. Todd’s attention during his stay at WCH as
surgery. He was also very good at explaining things and showing pictures of what to expect with the
shoulder and why I was having problems to start. Barnes also noted Dr. Todd’s ability to
effectively. After checking resources online, he was experiencing pain, weakness and the
surgeon with good outcomes, he found just
Dr. Michael Todd - Orthopaedic Surgeon  Darrel Barnes

With the expansion of Medicaid eligibility in 2014, WCH was not required to provide makes in any way, but charitable care as it has in previous years. Nonetheless, WCH still provided approximately $1.2 million in charity care in 2013.

As noted in previous community benefit reports, WCH also provides a multitude of programs from Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to cover 100% of our costs of providing care to CMS’s members. This “governmental payment shortfall” was approximately $12.2 million in 2013 compared to $11.2 million for 2012. WCH continues to work to change this situation. My hope is in reading this brief article is that you continue to see the value of your locally owned and operated community hospital and make the commitment to continue to deliver excellent services, cost effectively, to our community.

We thank you for choosing Wooster Community Hospital.