

BocaParent ...Blog

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For moms-to-be trying to decide where to give birth, medical expertise and support is the first consideration. After that, it's usually about comfort.

West Boca Medical Center's Birthcare Pavilion, which delivers about 200 babies a month, strives to offer both.

Thirty-six obstetricians and midwives deliver at West Boca, and an anesthesiologist is there 24/7. The hospital's maternity care has been rated among the top 5 percent in the nation for the past five years by HealthGrades.com.

In case the baby arrives with complications, West Boca has the highest-level neonatal intensive care unit in the area, with a staff of 50 to watch over as many as 34 beds, including micro-preemies weighing less than 2 pounds. The NICU was expanded just two years ago. HealthGrades rates the hospital as "better than expected" in the newborn survival category.



Louis Toby-Harris, director of labor & delivery, has experienced the hospital's success with premies firsthand. Three years ago, her daughter gave birth to a baby girl at only 25 weeks into the pregnancy. The baby stayed in the NICU for four months.

Now, she's a smart, energetic little girl, Toby-Harris said.

West Boca's well-baby nursery can hold 24 infants at once, but the newborns are often rooming in with their moms for most of their stay.

The labor and delivery rooms – all private, with private bathrooms – are decorated to look more like a home bedroom than a hospital room, with dark wood armoires, wood floors and nicely tiled bathrooms. Framed pictures on the wall slide up to reveal the medical equipment for when the big moment arrives.

“We try to make it as homey as possible,” said Doreen O’Boyle-Neary, clinical manager of labor & delivery.

For those delivering via C-section, West Boca has two dedicated operating rooms in the maternity unit.

For postpartum recovery, the hospital offers two private suites and two “Princess Suites.” The luxury Princess suites cost an extra \$150 a night (not covered by insurance). They can be reserved in advance for scheduled births; otherwise, it's first come, first served. All other postpartum rooms are semi-private.

A lactation consultant is also available to assist with breast feeding.

On their last night in the hospital, the mother and partner are treated to a gourmet dinner.

BOCA BIRTH TRENDS

West Boca maternity staff say they are seeing more moms-to-be come in with research under their belt, many using midwives and also trying alternatives to pain medication, like the birthing ball.

“It’s their body and we let them do what they have to do,” Toby-Harris said.

NICU RATINGS

Level 2 – Babies need a little observation, or maybe a course of antibiotics. They usually stay in the NICU less than 10 days.

Level 3 – Babies who need more medical intervention. (West Boca has the only Level 3 NICU in Boca and northwest Broward).

OTHER DETAILS

Siblings can visit, but they may not stay overnight.

You can order food (like stir-fry, ziti and creme brulee) from the hospital’s restaurant-style menu.

To schedule a tour, call 866-904-9262.

Watch a video tour of the Birthcare Pavilion on [YouTube](#).

CLASSES

West Boca offers several classes to get ready for your new arrival, and to care for the baby afterward. Check the schedule for classes on childbirth, breastfeeding, new baby care, prenatal yoga and more at the hospital’s [website](#). Select “Maternity” from the “Search by Topic” menu.

<http://www.bocaparent.com/bpnews/2011/10/maternity-services-west-boca-strives-for-touch-of-home/>