



# Neonatal Physician Assistant Residency Program

Nemours Children's Hospital, Florida



**NEMOURS**  
CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Rebecca Tillery, PA-C — Program Director

# Program Highlights

- **Length: 1 year (52 weeks)**
- **Objective:** To provide PAs seeking a career in neonatology with the post-master's education, training, and skills needed to be successful neonatal providers.
- **Prerequisites:** Prior to matriculation, the PA applicant must meet the following requirements:
  - Graduate from an ARC-PA recognized PA program
  - NCCPA board-certified
  - BLS, NRP Certified
  - Florida PA License
- **Benefits:** 403(b) retirement plan, medical insurance, 4-weeks PTO, CME opportunities, DEA reimbursement, Nemours phone/laptop, meal vouchers at NCH cafeteria
- **Important Dates:**
  - Application Window: March 1-April 30
  - Interview Dates: May
  - Selection Notification: Early June
  - Start Date: October 1

**\*\*Residents may be offered a position after completion of the program\*\***

# Application Requirements

- Complete the Nemours Children's Health Neonatal PA Residency Program application
- 1-page typed personal statement describing yourself, background, and why you desire a career in neonatology
- Copy of CV
- 3 letters of professional recommendation; one from your program director
  - May be sent via email or as attachment to application
- Send complete application with above documents to: [michelle.pizarro@nemours.org](mailto:michelle.pizarro@nemours.org)
- If necessary to submit as regular mail, please send to:  
Nemours Children's Hospital, Florida  
c/o Rebecca Tillery, PA-C  
6535 Nemours Parkway  
Orlando, FL 32827
- If you have any questions regarding our program, you may email:  
[rebecca.tillery@nemours.org](mailto:rebecca.tillery@nemours.org)

## Clinical Sites

To establish a strong foundation in newborn medicine, the Neonatal PA Resident will begin the year by rotating through the well-baby nursery, then Level 2 and 3 NICUs/delivery centers at the Nemours Partnership sites. Residents will complete the program in the Level 4 NICU at Nemours Children's Hospital to gain experience in complex neonatal patients, surgical care, congenital cardiac disease, and neonatal transport.

- HCA Florida UCF Lake Nona Hospital
- HCA Florida Oviedo Medical Center
- Cleveland Clinic Tradition Hospital
- HCA Florida Osceola Hospital
- Nemours Children's Hospital

## Curriculum Overview

### 1. **Neonatal Bootcamp**

The first two weeks of training provide a general overview of neonatal concepts and an introduction to the Nemours Neonatology and Partnership programs. Bootcamp will include:

- Didactic lectures with a focus on core neonatal topics
  - perinatal physiology, common newborn problems, fluids/electrolytes/nutrition, ventilator management, blood gas interpretation, patient presentation practice, palliative care
- Simulation lab to provide hands-on learning of common NICU procedures and resuscitation skills
- STABLE certification
- Complete onboarding
- Visit and tour clinical sites

## 2. Clinical rotations\*

At each clinical site, the Neonatal PA Resident will be precepted by experienced neonatal APP mentors who will guide them through expected clinical competencies.

- Shadowing NCH neonatal nurses
  - Introduce the NICU from a nursing perspective
  - Nursing skills: PIV, NG tube, urinary catheterization, thermoregulation, developmental care
- Well Newborn Medicine
  - Provide a background in basic newborn assessment and care.
- Cleveland Clinic Tradition Hospital
  - Delivery center, well baby nursery, and Level 2 NICU
- HCA Florida Osceola Hospital
  - High risk delivery center, well baby nursery, and Level 3 NICU
- Nemours Children's Hospital
  - Level 4 NICU, neonatal critical care transport, developmental follow up clinic
  - Rotation will include:
    - Maternal Fetal Medicine
    - Pediatric Surgery
    - Congenital Cardiac Disease
- Elective
  - Additional area of focus or repeat of delivery room rotation

## 3. Didactics

- Weekly learning sessions will include lectures, journal clubs, simulations, and skills training. Teaching will be provided by multidisciplinary neonatal faculty including:
  - Neonatologists and subspecialists
  - Physician Assistants and Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
  - Dietitians
  - Nurses and Lactation specialists
  - Respiratory Therapists
  - Therapists from speech, occupational, physical therapy
  - Psychologists/Social Workers

\*Exact timing of rotations is subject to modification based on resident and departmental needs

# Summary of Objectives

## **Newborn Assessment**

- Maternal History Affecting the Newborn
  - Antepartum, Intrapartum, Intrauterine drug exposure
- Neonatal
  - Physical Exam, Gestational Age/Behavioral Assessment
  - Clinical Laboratory Tests
  - Diagnostic Procedures

## **General Neonatal Management**

- Thermoregulation
- Delivery Room Resuscitation and Stabilization
- Growth and Nutrition
- Fluids and Electrolytes

## **Pharmacology**

- Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics
- Common drug therapies

## **Pathophysiology and Systems Based Management**

- Cardiac
- Respiratory
- Gastrointestinal
- Renal/Genitourinary
- Metabolic/Endocrine
- Hematopoietic
- Infectious Diseases
- Musculoskeletal
- Integumentary
- Genetics
- Neurological
- Ears, Eyes, Nose & Mouth/Throat
- Palliative Care

### **Procedural Competencies**

- Umbilical artery and vein catheterization
- Insertion and removal of peripheral IV and peripheral artery catheters
- Placement and maintenance of peripherally inserted central catheters (PICCs)
- Use of Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) for venous and arterial access
- Endotracheal Intubation
- Thoracentesis (needle decompression of pneumothorax)
- Chest tube insertion
- Lumbar puncture
- Support transport of critically ill infants to/from referring hospitals

### **Professional Development**

- Nemours APP New to Practice Series
- Opportunity to attend and present at regional or national conferences
- Research and Quality Improvement opportunities
- Ability to participate in enterprise-wide APP Lecture Series & APP Council initiatives
- Longitudinal mentorship from APPs and physician colleagues

### **Evaluation and Feedback**

- Case and Procedure logs
- On-time and monthly written feedback
- End of rotation evaluations at each site

## **Program Faculty**

Rebecca Tillery, PA-C: Neonatology APP Manager, Neonatal PA Residency Program Director

### **APP educational leads at each partnership site:**

- Osceola – Julianne VanLaningham, APRN NNP-BC
- Tradition – Nicole Thompson-Bowie, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC
- UCFLN/Oviedo – Christine Girard, APRN, NNP-BC

### **Physician Support:**

- Jane Ierardi, MD, MBA, FAAP, CPE; Chief Partnership Officer, Florida
- Caroline Chua, MD; Nemours Children's Health, FL NICU Medical Director