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United Hospital District announces neonatal virtual care partnership with Children's Minnesota

Blue Earth, MN — January 2026 – United Hospital District is pleased to announce a neonatal virtual care partnership with Children's Minnesota, home to the largest high-risk neonatal care program in the upper Midwest. Thanks to this new partnership, UHD can now deliver more resources and expertise than ever before when caring for newborns who need a higher level of care.

The new virtual care partnership allows providers at UHD to have enhanced 24/7 access to Children's Minnesota's neonatal care specialists through real-time virtual video consultations. From there, clinicians from both systems collaborate on the care management of newborns requiring acute stabilization after birth and determine whether the baby needs to be transferred for more intensive care. There is no extra cost for the virtual consultation to the patient's family.

For UHD providers, the virtual care partnership is a way to better serve families closer to home. "This virtual care relationship between Children's Minnesota's and UHD provides an enhanced level of safety for newborn care at the hospital. By allowing the Children's Minnesota's neonatal specialists to actually see the baby in real-time, we're confident that we'll be able to keep and serve more families here, in their own community," said Jamie Ringness, Nurse Manager.

"When neonatal expertise is needed, the neonatal virtual care program at Children's Minnesota is there 24/7. Whether a clinician needs another set of eyes, clinical guidance, or the initiation of transport services, we're here to help," said Dr. Emilee Parsons, medical director of neonatal transport and neonatal virtual care at Children's Minnesota. "We're proud of this partnership with UHD which will help improve access to specialized care while keeping more families in their community."

About United Hospital District

United Hospital District (www.uhd.org), based in Blue Earth, MN, is an independent system of care comprised of a 25-bed acute care hospital, comprehensive outpatient services, ambulance service and a home health/hospice care program, all supported by a 25-plus multi-specialty provider group with three clinic locations across two

counties. UHD was recognized as a 2025 Best Small Hospital for Obstetrics, a 2024 Top 100 Critical Access Hospital, a 2023 Best Small Hospital Under 25 Beds, and a 2022 Top 200 Workplace in Minnesota.

About Children's Minnesota

Children's Minnesota is one of the largest pediatric health systems in the United States and the only one in Minnesota devoted exclusively to children, from before birth through young adulthood. An independent and not-for-profit system for more than 100 years, Children's Minnesota offers more than 60 pediatric specialties through its two hospitals, multiple specialty centers and clinics throughout the metro area. The Kid Experts® at Children's Minnesota are chosen by more families than any other pediatric health system in the region.

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