In the NICU you will meet many people who help care for your baby. Their primary goal is to provide your baby with the best possible care so he/she can eventually go home with you. You have every right to ask who is involved and how they are involved in the care of your baby. Following is a list of the professionals you may meet in the NICU and Transitional Care Nursery:

- **Neonatal Attending**: Neonatal Attending Physician: Pediatricians with advanced training in the care of sick and premature infants. They are your baby’s doctor while your baby is in the NICU. They round everyday and plan your baby’s medical care. If you have not yet met with your baby’s attending, please ask your baby’s nurse or social worker to arrange a meeting. The Neonatal attending rotates in the NICU for several weeks at a time.

- **Residents**: Medical school graduates who are training to become pediatricians. Pediatric residents rotate in the NICU for one month at a time. Residents always work under the supervision of the neonatal fellow and attending.

- **Fellows/Neonatal Fellow**: Pediatricians who are completing a 3 year specialty training in Neonatology to become Neonatologists. The neonatal fellow rotates in the NICU for one month at a time. The neonatal fellow works under the supervision of the Neonatal Attending.

- **Nurses**: Neonatal Staff Nurse: Registered nurses who specialize in the care of the sick and premature babies. Each baby admitted to the NICU is immediately assigned to a neonatal staff nurse. This nurse can help you understand your baby’s routine care, explain your baby’s condition and help you become more confident in taking over the care of your baby. The bedside nurse works 12 hour shifts several days a week.

- **Nursing Attendant**: Individuals who assist the staff by keeping the units well stocked with equipment and assisting in the transporting of babies to other units within the hospital.

- **Nurse practioners**: A registered nurse (RN) who has advanced education and clinical training in a health care area. Nurse practioners work with people of all ages and their families, providing information people need to make informed decisions about their health care and lifestyle choices. Nurse Practioners serve as the regular health care provider for children and adults during health and illness.

- **House Physicians**: Physicians who have completed their pediatric residency and practice pediatrics in the hospital.
Physician Assistants: A specially trained person who is certified to provide medical services (as the diagnosis and treatment of common medical problems) usually under the supervision of a licensed physician. They are also called a ‘PA’.

Social Worker: Professionals responsible for providing counseling and assistance with discharge and other social needs concerning sick and premature newborns. They help families find and coordinate resources either in the hospital or community that will best meet their needs.

Psychologists: Mental health professionals who have a doctoral degree in clinical, counseling, developmental psychology. They are available to families to help provide them with psychological support, guidance and counseling.

Respiratory Therapist: Professionals who have expertise in the equipment and support of patients with respiratory distress.

Nutritionists: Specialists trained in developing and supervising the nutritional needs of patients. They assist the patient care team in planning and customizing the special nutritional needs of our patients.

Physical Therapist: Specialists trained in rehabilitation and gross motor development.

Occupational Therapist: Specialists trained in sensory and fine motor needs.

Feeding specialist: Professionals with expertise in the development of infants. Specializes in assisting babies with feeding and sucking.

Pharmacists: Professional trained in the preparing and dispensing medications and intravenous fluids.

Lactation Consultants: Professionals trained to assist mothers in learning the necessary skills to establish and maintain your milk supply and help you overcome obstacles to breastfeeding. She also provides teaching for staff and parents in issues regarding breast feeding.

Pastoral Care: Supports and attends to the spiritual needs of babies and families.

Unit Assistant: Assists parents, visitors, doctors and nurses and also carries out clerical duties. Facilitates the daily administrative and organizational needs of patients, nurses and physicians.

Child Life Center: Resource center for parents and children.
- **Neonatal Family Resource Center:** Located on the 7th floor. Offers computer and internet access to families of patients and a collection of books and magazines are available on a variety of subjects.

- **Interpreter Corps:** Trained volunteers who interpret for families and health care providers (including American Sign Language).

- **Patient Relations:** Assists parents with patient care issues.

- **Security Office:** Provides security and safety in the hospital.

- **Welcome Center:** Assists with general information and issues Hospital/visitor identification cards (ID’s). The center is located in the main lobby of MS-CHONY.