

Update: Advanced Delivery Unit

Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children begins delivering babies

In September, media and invited guests toured the Advanced Delivery Unit at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children. Visitors had an opportunity to see the new suite designed to serve infants who require swift intervention after birth, and their families. To date, two successful deliveries have taken place.

The Nemours & Christiana Care Advanced Delivery Program is for healthy expectant mothers whose babies have been prenatally diagnosed with a congenital anomaly, such as spina bifida, gastroschisis or cardiac abnormalities. Now, mothers are able to deliver in the same location where their infant will be treated immediately after birth. Having families located in the same place as the baby enhances the post-delivery experience and supports greater interaction between parents, their baby and health care providers.

"This level of collaborative care is a game-changer in our area and has the potential to make a real difference in the lives of the tiniest patients we are privileged to serve," said Margaret R. Chou, MD, Christiana Care Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Stephanie Nolasco of Bear, DE, delivered her son at Christiana Hospital but the baby was transported within hours of birth to have surgery at duPont Hospital for Children for an abdominal obstruction. "I wish the [advance delivery] service had been available at the time my son was born," said Nolasco. "Being separated from him was very stressful. I needed time to recover, but hurried my discharge so I could be with him." She added: "The new program will be so much better for families in these situations."

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