



# 12TH ANNUAL NEONATAL CONFERENCE:

Decision-Making for Optimal Care and Outcomes

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Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 • Location: Virtual / In-Person:  
Children's Mercy Research Institute (CMRI) Auditorium



# Agenda

## 12th Annual Neonatal Conference 2026 Decision-Making for Optimal Care and Outcomes Wednesday, April 15

- 7:30      **Sign-in / BREAKFAST / Exhibitors**
- 8:10      Welcome
- 8:20      **Trisomy 13 and 18: Ethical Considerations in Neonatal and Pediatric Care**  
Alaina Pyle
- 9:10      **Empowering the NICU Triad: Self-Determination for Babies, Families, and the Medical Team**  
Erick Ridout
- 10:00      BREAK / Exhibitors**
- 10:30      **POKE Program: Reduced NICU Infections, Pain, and Blood Loss**  
Erick Ridout
- 11:15      **All Too Well...and Too Long? Rethinking Antibiotic Duration**  
Alexandra Oschman
- Noon      LUNCH / Exhibitors**
- 1:00      **Respiratory Case: Grade IV Laryngeal Cleft**  
Karishma Rao, Daniel Jensen, Tolu Oyetunji, Anna Nelson
- 1:50      **Hyper-Insulinemic Hypoglycemia: Benign-Rare Condition Or Common and Dangerous Occurrence in the NICU**  
Vishal Pandey
- 2:30      BREAK / Snack / Posters**
- 2:50      **Sound Decisions: Enhancing Clinical Insight at the Bedside with Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS)**  
Ekta Patel
- 3:30      **From Crisis to Confidence: The Lasting Impact of Family-Centered Care in the NICU**  
Erika Mendence
- 4:10      Conference Adjourns**

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**In-Person:** Children's Mercy Research Institute (CMRI) Auditorium,  
2401 Gillham Rd, Kansas City, MO 64108

**Target Audience:**

This full-day conference is intended for clinicians who care for neonates.

## Course Objectives:

- Recognize key clinical factors for decision-making for optimal care and outcomes.
- Discuss the historical and modern approaches to decision-making in the population of infants with complex and/or severely life-limiting diagnoses, especially T13/18.
- Describe the three components of Self-Determination Theory.
- Discuss "Concept of Voice of Patient" as it pertains to ensuring patient autonomy and as a guide for the next interval of care decision-making.
- Discuss "Concept of TWIT (The Way I Trained) Care" and assess the current routine performed care for the TWIT Role of Clarity (Patient/Caregivers only experience/deliver care that adds value).
- List strategies to reduce NICU infections, pain, and blood loss.
- Evaluate literature regarding shorter antibiotic duration times for common infections, such as UTI and pneumonia.
- Identify a medical condition needing unique care, stabilization, and transfer.
- Describe the transition of glucose homeostasis from fetal to the early neonatal period.
- Describe how glucose levels are maintained in a narrow physiological range in newborns.
- Discuss how authentic collaboration between NICU teams and families improves care experiences, strengthens trust, and supports better outcomes for babies.

## Continuing Education Credit:

**Nursing:** Participants who meet the requirements for successful completion will receive up to 6.0 contact hours.

Children's Mercy is approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the VTL Center for Professional Development, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Criteria for successful completion: In order to receive contact hours, the participant must record attendance, participate in the educational sessions, and complete the online evaluation (a link will be emailed after attendance is recorded and must be completed before the deadline).

**Respiratory Therapists:** The Children's Mercy Hospital's CEU Evaluator has approved this program for up to 7.2 Live Respiratory Care CEUs, on behalf of the Kansas Respiratory Care Society, a chapter of the AARC. Providership #KRCS 003.

**Physicians:** Children's Mercy Hospital is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Children's Mercy Hospital designates this live activity for a maximum of 6 AMA PRA Category 1 credits.™ Physicians should only claim the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

## Registration:

To register online, please go to:

<https://childrensmercy.cloud-cme.com/12thAnnualNeonatalConf>

**Virtual Attendance Pricing for Non-Children's Mercy Employees:** Registration fee includes continuing education credit for nurses, respiratory therapists, and physicians.

Non-physician Early Bird (Ends February 13, 2026): \$60

Non-physician (Begins February 14, 2026): \$80

Physician Early Bird (Ends February 13, 2026): \$110

Physician (Begins February 14, 2026): \$130

**In-Person Attendance Pricing for Non-Children's Mercy Employees:** Registration fee includes food, beverages (breakfast, lunch, break snacks), and continuing education credit.

Non-physician Early Bird (Ends February 13, 2026): \$80

Non-physician (Begins February 14, 2026): \$100

Physician Early Bird (Ends February 13, 2026): \$130

Physician (Begins February 14, 2026): \$150

### **Reduced Group Rates**

Hospital Group Rate (5+ attendees): Save \$5 per registration. Please get in touch with Patricia Reuter at preuter@cmh.edu and provide your organization, the primary contact (who will pay), the number of virtual participants, and the number of in-person participants. An invoice will then be created and assigned to the primary contact, who can then pay the fee. In addition, a discount code will be created and sent back to share with the planned attendees so they can register for the conference at no cost.

Payment can be made online at the time of registration or by check made payable to Children's Mercy.

### **If paying by check, please address the envelope as follows:**

Patricia A. Reuter, MSN, RNC-NIC, Coordinator, Neonatal Outreach Education  
Children's Mercy  
2401 Gillham Road  
Kansas City, MO 64108

## **Speakers:**

**Daniel Jensen**, MD, ENT-Otolaryngologist, Medical Director of Tracheostomy Program, Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology, Children's Mercy, Kansas City, MO

**Erika Mendenace**, Patient & Family Engagement Specialist, Children's Mercy, Kansas City, MO

**Anna Nelson**, MD, Neonatologist, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Children's Mercy, Kansas City, MO

**Alexandra Oschman**, PharmD, BCPPS, NICU Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Children's Mercy, Kansas City, MO

**Tolu Oyetunji**, MD, MPH, MBA, Chief of the Division of Pediatric General Surgery, Professor of Surgery, Children's Mercy, Kansas City, MO

**Vishal Pandey**, MBBS, MD, Neonatologist, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Children's Mercy and KU School of Medicine, Kansas City, MO

**Ekta Patel**, DO, Neonatologist, Director of Neonatal Point-of-Care Ultrasound Program, Assistant Professor in Pediatrics, Children's Mercy, Kansas City, MO

**Alaina Pyle**, MD, Neonatologist, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Connecticut Children's, Hartford, CT

**Karishma Rao**, MD, Neonatologist, Medical Director of CLD Inpatient Services, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Children's Mercy, Kansas City, MO

**Erick Ridout**, MD, Neonatologist, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, St. George Regional Hospital NICU, St. George, UT

## Planning Committee Members:

Patricia Reuter, MSN, RNC-NIC, Children's Mercy

Jacquelin Ashbaugh, BSN, RN, CCRN, C-ELBW, Children's Mercy

Emily Britt, MSN, CCRN, CPHQ, Children's Mercy

Emily Cook, BSN, RN, Children's Mercy

John Daniel, MD, MS, Children's Mercy

Jessica Dold, BSN, RNC-LRN, Liberty Hospital

Melissa Ehling, MSN, APRN, NNP-BC, FNP-BC, Children's Mercy

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Heather Menden, MS, Children's Mercy

Jenny McKee, MSN, RNC-NIC, CPST, NKC Health, North Kansas City Hospital

Kathy Mick, MEd, MSN, RN, NPD-BC, Children's Mercy

Jennifer Nieman, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC, Children's Mercy

Amanda O'Brien, BSN, RN, RNC-NIC, The University of Kansas Health System

Carl Pace, MA, RRT-NPS, North Kansas City Hospital, Advent Health Shawnee Mission

Karishma Rao, MD, Children's Mercy

Amie Slaughter, MSN, APRN, NNP-BC, The University of Kansas Health System

### For further information, please contact

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