



# Neonatal Physician Assistant Fellowship

**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: Jan 1–April 30
  - Interview Dates: May–June
  - Selection Notification: By July 15
  - Start Date: October 1

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

# Application Requirements

- Complete the Nemours Children's Health Neonatal PA Fellowship 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 an attachment to the application
- Send complete application with above documents to:  
[jennifer.luther@nemours.org](mailto:jennifer.luther@nemours.org)
- 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 Fellow will begin the year by rotating through the well-baby nursery, then Level 2 and 3 NICUs/delivery centers at the Nemours Partnership sites. Fellows 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. The clinical sites include:

- 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
- 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 Fellow will be precepted by experienced neonatal APP mentors who will guide them through expected clinical competencies.

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

- 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
  - Rotation will include:
    - Maternal Fetal Medicine
- Nemours Children's Hospital
  - Level 4 NICU, neonatal critical care transport, developmental follow up clinic
  - Rotation will include:
    - Pediatric Surgery, Neonatal Transport
- Elective
  - Additional area of focus or repeat of delivery room rotation

### **3. Didactics**

- Weekly learning sessions will include lectures, journal clubs, simulations, and interprofessional skills training. Teaching will be provided by multidisciplinary 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

# 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 Fellowship Program Director

APP educational leads at each partnership site:

- Osceola – Julianne VanLaningham, APRN, NNP-BC
- Tradition – Nicole Thompson-Bowie, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC

Physician Support:

- Caroline Chua, MD; Nemours Children's Health, FL NICU Medical Director
- Shanmukha Mukthapuram, MD; Neonatologist, Cleveland Clinic Partnership



**Maria Pacheco, PA-C**  
**Neonatal PA Fellow, 2024-2025**  
**Current Nemours Neonatal PA-C**

"The NICU Fellowship has been such an incredible experience. The preceptors are absolutely amazing. They are always there to answer questions, explain things thoroughly and support you no matter what. They genuinely care about helping you learn and grow and truly make you feel like a valued part of the team. During the fellowship I've had the chance to participate in deliveries, resuscitations, and the management of both NICU and well-newborn infants. I've also gained hands-on experience with procedures like lumbar punctures, intubations, umbilical lines and arterial sticks. It is a challenging but incredibly rewarding program, and I can't recommend it enough!"

