

# Division of Neonatology

*Saint Louis University School of Medicine  
at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon  
Children's Hospital and SSM Health  
St. Mary's Hospital, St. Louis, MO*



The Division of Neonatology is nationally ranked by U.S. News & World Report for its expertise in the care of newborns and for quality initiatives that have improved patient care and outcomes.

Neonatologists, on the faculty at Saint Louis University School of Medicine, oversee neonatal services at two regional hospitals — SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital and SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital. Onsite clinical care outreach services also are provided at four additional SSM Health hospitals in the St. Louis region and the division has a robust telemedicine program.

The team includes 21 board-certified neonatologists as well as more than 40 nurse practitioners and 200+ registered nurses who coordinate care in SSM Health Cardinal Glennon's 65-bed Level IV NICU.

## Spotlight: Comprehensive Neonatal Neurology Program and Neuro-ICU

SSM Health Cardinal Glennon is one of only a handful of hospitals across the country with a dedicated neonatal neurology program. The program includes neonatologists as well as pediatric neurologists, neuroradiologists, and neurosurgeons. State-of-the-art bedside neurological monitoring technology is being enhanced in 2021 at both SSM Health Cardinal Glennon and SSM Health St. Mary's through the acquisition and use of video EEG, amplitude-integrated EEG and near infrared spectroscopy (NIRS). The program also coordinates with pediatric radiology to optimize neuro-imaging services. For long-term follow-up care, SSM Health Cardinal Glennon offers a high-risk developmental clinic. The team in the NICU is aware of the impact of positive sensory experiences during the formative NICU stay of premature babies. Integrated into the Neuro-ICU is a comprehensive approach to developmentally-focused care involving parents, nurses, and therapists. A team of NICU-cuddlers also is available to hold babies and read to them when family members are not onsite. Each room in the NICU also is equipped with a NicView camera for around-the-clock, secure access to real-time video streaming for use by parents and family members.



## SSM Health Cardinal Glennon St. Louis Fetal Care Institute

Prenatal diagnostic testing and comprehensive care is provided in the SSM Health Cardinal Glennon St. Louis Fetal Care Institute. The Institute offers specialized in-utero surgical and interventional procedures when appropriate and includes pediatric and maternal-fetal medicine specialists in addition to neonatologists.

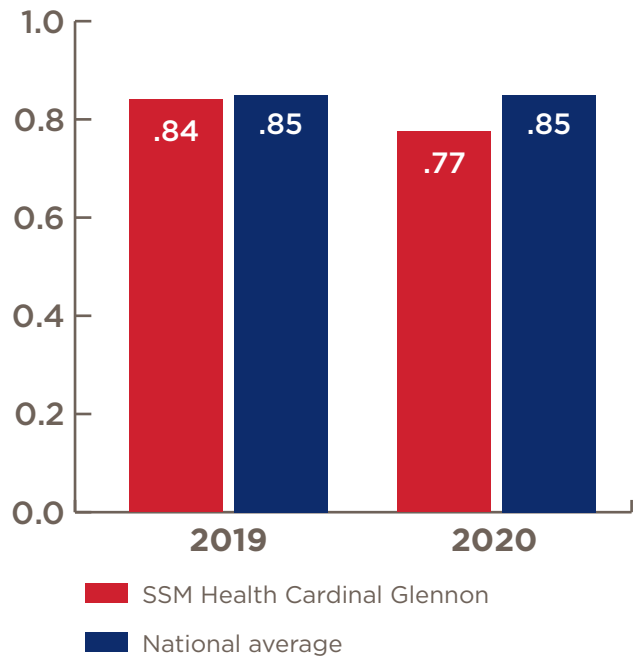
### Neonatal Quality Initiatives

The division has an ongoing multidisciplinary quality improvement effort to consistently reduce the number of unintended extubations (UEs) and central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSI) in the NICU. That effort, part of a larger Quality and Safety Initiative, has resulted in rates for both UEs and CLABSIs being below national averages.

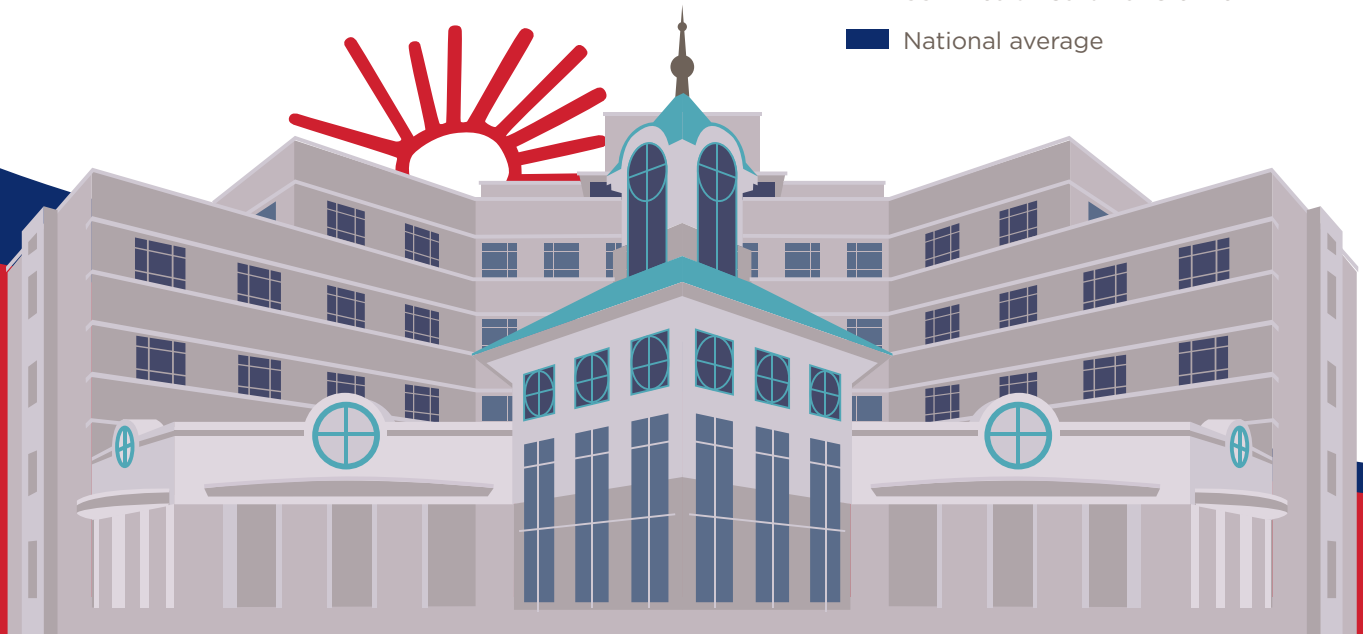
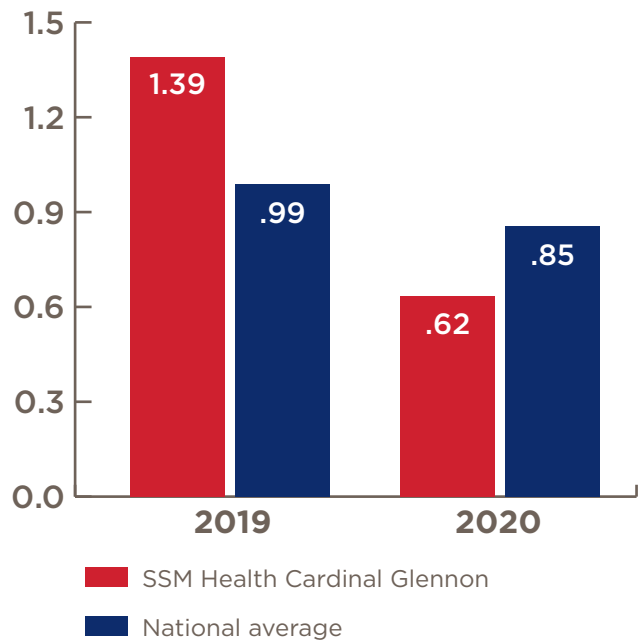
Neonatologists here also are spearheading the development of NICU quality metrics and best practice guidelines within SSM Health's facilities throughout the Midwest. This effort is a collaborative initiative with SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Pediatrics.

In 2020, SSM Health Cardinal Glennon was verified as a Level I Children's Surgery Center by the American College of Surgeons' Children's Surgery Verification (ACS CSV) Quality Improvement Program. The hospital is one of only two programs in the state of Missouri to achieve verification status, which recognizes quality improvement programs that have measurably improved surgical quality and prevented surgical complications.

### NICU UEs



### NICU CLABSIs



## Tele-NICU and Emergency Transport Services

SSM Health Cardinal Glennon was the first in the region to offer neonatal telehealth consultations through its Tele-NICU service. The service, now linked to eight rural hospitals in Missouri and Illinois, offers 24/7 consultative services, coordination of emergency transport, and virtual attendance at high-risk deliveries and neonatal resuscitation emergencies. Neonatologists also can virtually guide umbilical catheter placement through the Tele-NICU portal.

To rapidly transport infants and children to SSM Health Cardinal Glennon for emergency care, the hospital operates an extensive Neonatal and Pediatric Transport Service. The program's team, which includes paramedics, nurses, and respiratory therapists, is based in three locations for rapid deployment throughout Missouri, west and central Illinois, western Kentucky, and areas in Iowa, Indiana, and Arkansas. The hospital also owns a helicopter, several ambulances and specialized mobile Intensive Care Units (MICUs). All units are equipped to provide bubble CPAP and active therapeutic hypothermia when needed.

With a strong commitment to advancing quality care, the team is consistently recognized nationally for advancing best practices in the care of neonates and children during emergency transport.

### Tele-NICU

**Reduction of nursery transfers where Tele-NICU services have been deployed.**



**Down 35%**

## Neonatal Research

Faculty within the Division of Neonatology published 36 manuscripts in peer-reviewed publications in 2019-2020 and presented abstracts at several national and international meetings. Several members also are involved in NIH-funded, multicenter clinical trials focused on neonatal resuscitation and neonatal neuroprotection. Pediatric clinical and translational research efforts are underway in several areas:

- Neonatal brain injury and neuroprotection  
(*Amit Mathur, MD*)
- Neonatal iron metabolism  
(*Robert Fleming, MD*)
- Neonatal response to pre-natal inflammation  
(*Joyce Koenig, MD*)
- Preterm lung injury and inflammation  
(*Noah Hillman, MD*)
- Neonatal resuscitation  
(*Marya Strand, MD, Justin Josephsen, MD, Nitin Chouthai, MD*)
- Neonatal opioid withdrawal  
(*Kimberly Spence, MD, Justin Josephsen, MD*)

## Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship

Saint Louis University School of Medicine offers an ACGME-accredited fellowship in neonatal and perinatal medicine at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital.

For physician consultations, contact the SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Access Center at **1-888-229-2424**.

## SLUCare Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Faculty

### **Amit Mathur, MD, MRCP, FAAP**

Interim Director, Division of Neonatology  
*Professor of Pediatrics*  
Saint Louis University School of Medicine and  
Medical Director, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit  
SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital

### **Leenah Abugisisa, MD**

### **Connie Anderson, MD**

Medical Director, High Risk Nursery Follow-up Clinic  
Medical Director, Special Care Nursery, SSM Health  
St. Clare Hospital

### **Ayoob Ali, MD**

Medical Director, TeleNICU, SSM Health Cardinal  
Glennon Children's Hospital

### **Thomas Bender, MD**

Medical Director, Special Care Nursery  
SSM Health St. Joseph Hospital Lake Saint Louis and  
SSM Health DePaul Hospital

### **Robert Brooker, MD**

Program Director, Pediatric Residency

### **Nitin Chouthai, MD**

### **Cathy Cibulskis, MD**

Co-Director, SSM Health Cardinal Glennon  
St. Louis Fetal Care Institute

### **Colleen Claassen, MD**

### **Julie Dillard, MD**

### **Robert Fleming, MD**

### **Kathryn Hanson, MD**

### **Noah Hillman, MD**

Medical Director, SSM Health Cardinal Glennon  
Children's Hospital Transport Team

### **Justin Josephsen, MD, MA**

Medical Director, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit  
SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital - St. Louis

### **William Keenan, MD**

Professor Emeritus

### **Joyce Koenig, MD**

### **Shakir Mohamed, MD**

Medical Director, Neonatal ECMO

### **Rebecca Petersen, MD**

Program Director, Fellowship Program

### **Farouk H. Sadiq, MD**

### **Kimberly Spence, MD**

### **Marya Strand, MD, MA**

Chief Medical Officer, SSM Health Cardinal Glennon  
Children's Hospital

### **Neonatology Fellows**

Dajana Sabic, DO  
Brittany Montavon, MD  
Nirja Acharya, MD  
Claire Murray, DO  
Samantha Becker, MD  
Megan Ottomeyer, DO

### **Nursing Leadership at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital**

### **Kelley Kostich, PhD, RN, NE-BC**

Administrative Director of Nursing Operations -  
Newborn Services

### **Brandie Tieken, BSN, RN, CMTE, C-NPT**

Director, Transport Services, Access Center, NICU

### **Beth Lamkin, BSN, RN**

Manager, NICU

### **Kimmie Pacatte, MSN, RNC**

Manager, NICU

### **Katie Robbins, MSN, APRN, NNP-BC**

Manager, NICU Advanced Practice Providers

### **Nursing Leadership at SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital**

### **Pamela Lesser, MSN, RN**

Administrative Director of Nursing Operations -  
Director of Perinatal Services

### **Julie Nickles, MSN, RN**

Manager, NICU

Neonatologists at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital are faculty of Saint Louis University School of Medicine and members of its SLUCare Physician Group. The hospital is the only free-standing, not-for-profit Catholic pediatric hospital in the United States. It is a member of SSM Health, one of the largest Catholic health care systems in the country and is affiliated with Saint Louis University School of Medicine. For more information about the hospital, visit [cardinalglennon.com](http://cardinalglennon.com).

