



# FEEDING THE PRETERM INFANT

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# FUN FACTS ABOUT ME

Just had my first child in December, his name is William.

I have a Chihuahua, named Einstein.

I love running and I find it relaxing.

I graduated from Purdue University with a dual bachelor's degree.

I have been working in the field of pediatrics for 5 ½ years.



# OUTLINE

Brief history of neonatology and infant feeding.

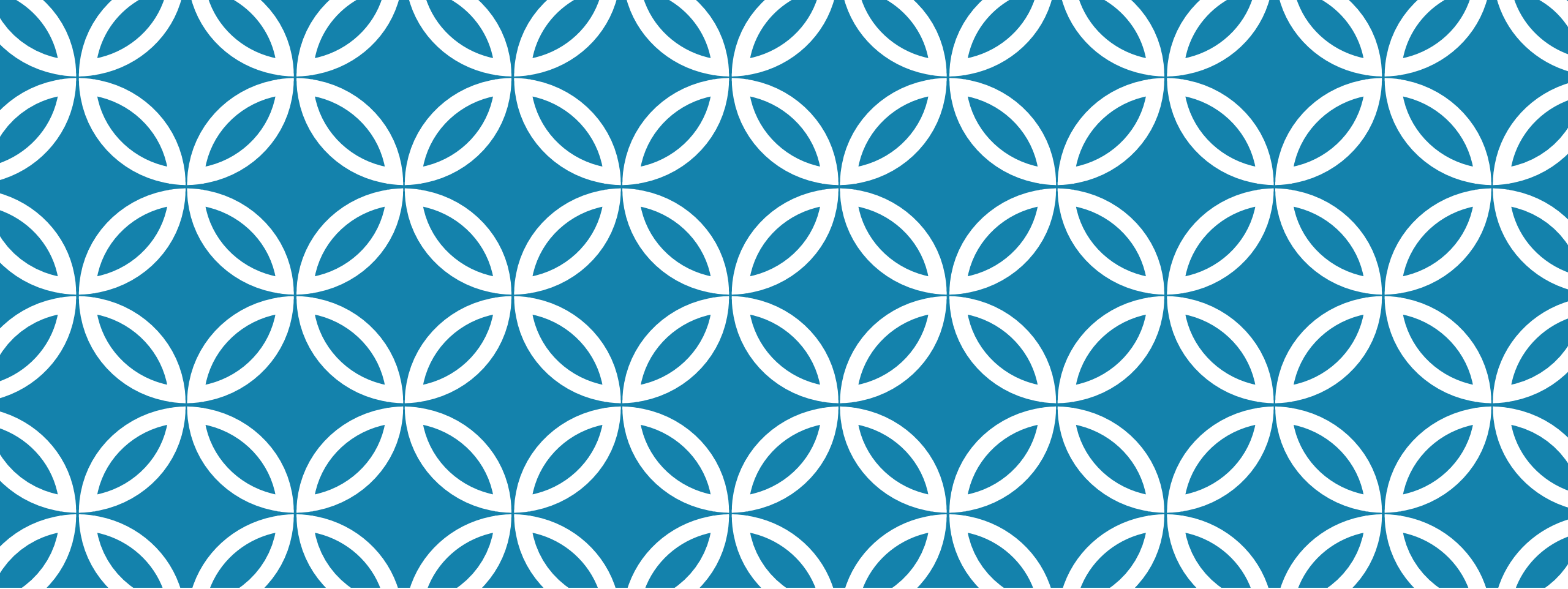
What is the role of a dietitian in the NICU?

What does nutrition support look like in a neonate?

Common diagnoses.

Role of the dietitian in the formula room.





# WHERE WE HAVE COME FROM

History of medical practice with babies

# HISTORY OF NEONATOLOGY

Neonatology began with French midwives and obstetricians.

- Pierre-Constant Budin – pioneer for at risk babies and promoted the use of breastmilk.

“Incubator Baby Side Shows” at the World’s Fair and at all large expositions.

- Dr. Couney had a side show at Coney Island. Paid 25 cents to see tiny babies in incubators. Incubators were not allowed in hospitals until after Dr. Couney’s death in 1950.

Highest rate of infant mortality in 1870 = 230 out of 1,000 births.



# HISTORY OF NEONATOLOGY

Hospitals for newborn infants were not started until after World War II.

Realized premature infants needed:

- Heat
- Oxygen
- Humidity

By 1940s the modern (plastic walled) incubator was standard in NICU units to assist with thermoregulation.

- Infants lack brown fat, they struggle to maintain their temperature. This humidified and warm environment helped to decrease energy expenditure and allow for growth.

In 1967, Lulu Lubchanco introduced the SGA, AGA, LGA classification for infants.

# HISTORY OF NEONATOLOGY

Infants were fed via tubes as early as 1850s. In the 1950s polyethylene tubing was introduced.

The composition of human milk (carbohydrates, protein and fat) was discovered in 1890. By 1920, infant formula was created and being introduced to infants. The WIC program was enacted by Congress in 1972. Whey-predominant formulas for preterm infants were introduced in the 1980s.

Parenteral nutrition was a major turning point for the care of preterm infants. Initially this intravenous nutrition was in the form of glucose.

# HISTORY OF INFANT FEEDING

1800s and earlier – The Wet Nurse

1845-1846 – The invention of the rubber nipple and baby bottle.

1867-1888 – Infant formula was created.

1890-1907 – Homemade baby formula used.

1908-1950 – Evaporated milk was used to feed infants.

1951-1970 – Push to market commercial formula from infant formula companies.

1971-1990 – Complications from infant formula (death and raising public awareness)

1997-Present – Formula versus Breast feeding Debate.



# NICU – LEVELS OF CARE

## **Level I** – Well baby nursery (basic).

- Near term infants (35-37 weeks gestation)

## **Level II** – Moderately ill infants.

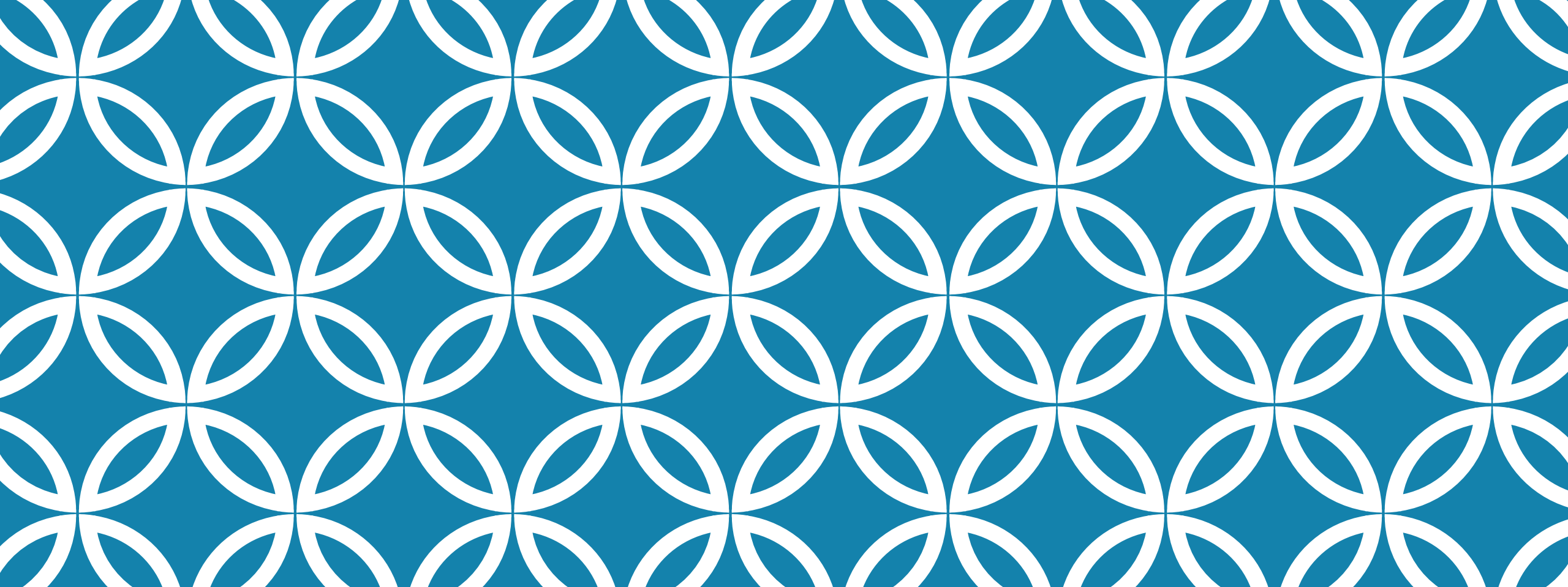
- Infants  $\geq 32$  weeks or  $\geq 1500$  grams (may require increased respiratory support)
- Can provide convalescent care.

## **Level III** – Critically ill infants.

- Provide sustained life support and care for infants  $< 32$  weeks and  $< 1500$  grams (all forms of respiratory support).
- Readily available access to subspecialists.

## **Level IV** – Critically ill infants requiring surgical repair of complex congenital or acquired conditions.

- Immediate on-site access to all subspecialists.



# ROLE OF THE RD

Management of nutrition care

# JOB DESCRIPTION OF A NICU RD

Able to work with a multi-disciplinary medical team.

Familiar with TPN and Tube Feeding calculations.

Flexible to deal with a rapidly changing work environment and handle complex medical cases.

Familiar with various types of feedings for infants (breastmilk and formula) to determine the best nutrition plan for each patient.



# TYPICAL DAY

Multi-Disciplinary Rounds on all patients each week

Gather information weekly to chart on all patients.

Use spreadsheets for daily tracking of bowel patients.

Graph/track growth on growth charts.

Work closely with MD, RN, SLP and Formula Tech to provide the best care.

Attend meetings (safety and breast feeding).



# DATA SHEETS

NAME:					EDC:	
DOB:		Diagnosis:		Mom: ___ yrs G__ P__	Meds:	Birth Wt:
<b>GA:</b>				complications:		Birth Lt:
M / F						Birth OFC:
		Resp:	Gluc:	C/S Vag	APGAR's:	SGA / AGA / LGA
Feeds:				_____ ml/kg/d	_____ kcal/kg/d	_____ gPRO/kg/d
TPN/IVF:				Stools/Ostomy:		
<b>Recommendations:</b>						
<input type="checkbox"/> KBC						
today's date:		Diagnosis:		Na/K	Meds:	Wt:
				Hct		Lt:
DOL:				BUN		OFC:
GA:				D/Bili		SGA / AGA / LGA
				AlkP		_____ % below BW or
MD _____		Resp:		Ca P		_____ g/d wt gain
Feeds:						
TPN/IVF:				_____ ml/kg/d	_____ kcal/kg/d	_____ gPRO/kg/d
%PO:				Stools/Ostomy:		
<b>Recommendations:</b>						
<input type="checkbox"/> KBC						

# NUTRITION NOTES

**Reason for Assessment :** Former 28+1 weeks gestation being followed for Tube Feeding support

Lilly (twin A) is currently at DOL#39 and at 33+5 weeks gestation. Current Dx: BPD (on vapotherm 2L), Apnea, Multiples, PDA, Anemia Meds: Caffeine, Glycerin chip PRN, Poly-Vi-Sol with Fe 0.5mL Labs: Hct 34% Stools: WNL Mom is pumping and we are using her breastmilk Weight was up 15g/day.

**Enteral/Parenteral Feeding :** 24kcal Fortified Breastmilk or Donor Breastmilk made with Human Milk Fortifier 31mL Q3 (over 30 minutes on the pump, no PO intakes) 147mL/kg/day & 118kcal/kg/day & >4g PRO/kg/day

10 to 25th percentile for weight, based on 1685g

25 to 50th percentile for length, based on 42cm

10th percentile for head circumference, based on 28cm

Growth Chart Used : Fenton 2013

# NUTRITION NOTES

**PES:** Increased nutrient needs (specify) NI-5.1 (Energy and Protein) related to and as evidenced by Prematurity (immature organ function) as evidence by dependence on tube feeding support, requiring fortified feedings and less than optimal weight gain.

**Total Calories :** ~120, total calories/kg/day

**Protein :** 3.6, total grams/kg/day

**Fluid :** 130-150 total fluid mL/kg/day

Weight Used : 1.685kg

**Dietician/Nutrition Interventions :** (1) Weight was up 15g/day. Weight gain goals are ~25g/day or 15g/kg/day. (2) Infant is on 24kcal fortified breastmilk at 31mL Q3. Mom has stopped pumping and the milk she has left is going to Beau (twin B). Currently using Donor breastmilk. This now needs to be discontinued since the infant is just about >34 weeks gestation and >1500g. Recommend changing to 24kcal Neosure/Enfacare. Total fluid goals are 130-150mL/kg/day and currently getting 147mL/kg/day. Weight gain is appropriate. Continue with current plan of care. (3) Continue with Pol-Vi-Sol with Fe at 0.5mL daily.

# GESTATIONAL AGE CATEGORIES

Gestational age is estimated prenatally by the obstetrician using maternal date for expected delivery based on her last menstrual period and/or on fetal characteristics (uterine fundal height, fetal heart rate).

**Preterm:**  $\leq 37$  weeks gestation

**Term:** 37+1 weeks through 42 weeks gestation

**Postterm:**  $> 42$  weeks gestation





# BIRTH WEIGHT CATEGORIES

When evaluating premature infants, birth weight is a parameter that can help predict outcomes.

**Low birth weight (LBW):** < 2500 grams

**Very low birth weight (VLBW):** < 1500 grams

**Extremely low birth weight (ELBW):** < 1000 grams



# TYPES OF FORMULA

## Term Formula

- 19 or 20kcal/oz

## Soy Formula (Galactosemia)

- 20kcal/oz - Prosobee, Isomil

## Preterm Formula (33-36 weeks gestation at birth)

- 22kcal/oz - Neosure, Enfacare

## Partially Hydrolyzed Formula

- 20kcal/oz - Pregestimil, Nutramigen

## Elemental Formula

- 20kcal/oz - Elecare, Neocate



# MODULARS

## Protein

- Liquid protein, Powdered protein additives

## Fat

- Microlipid, Fish oil, MCT oil

## Carbohydrate + Fat

- Duocal

## Human Milk Fortifier

## Oat Cereal



# GROWTH ASSESSMENT

## Tanis Fenton Growth Charts for Preterm Infants

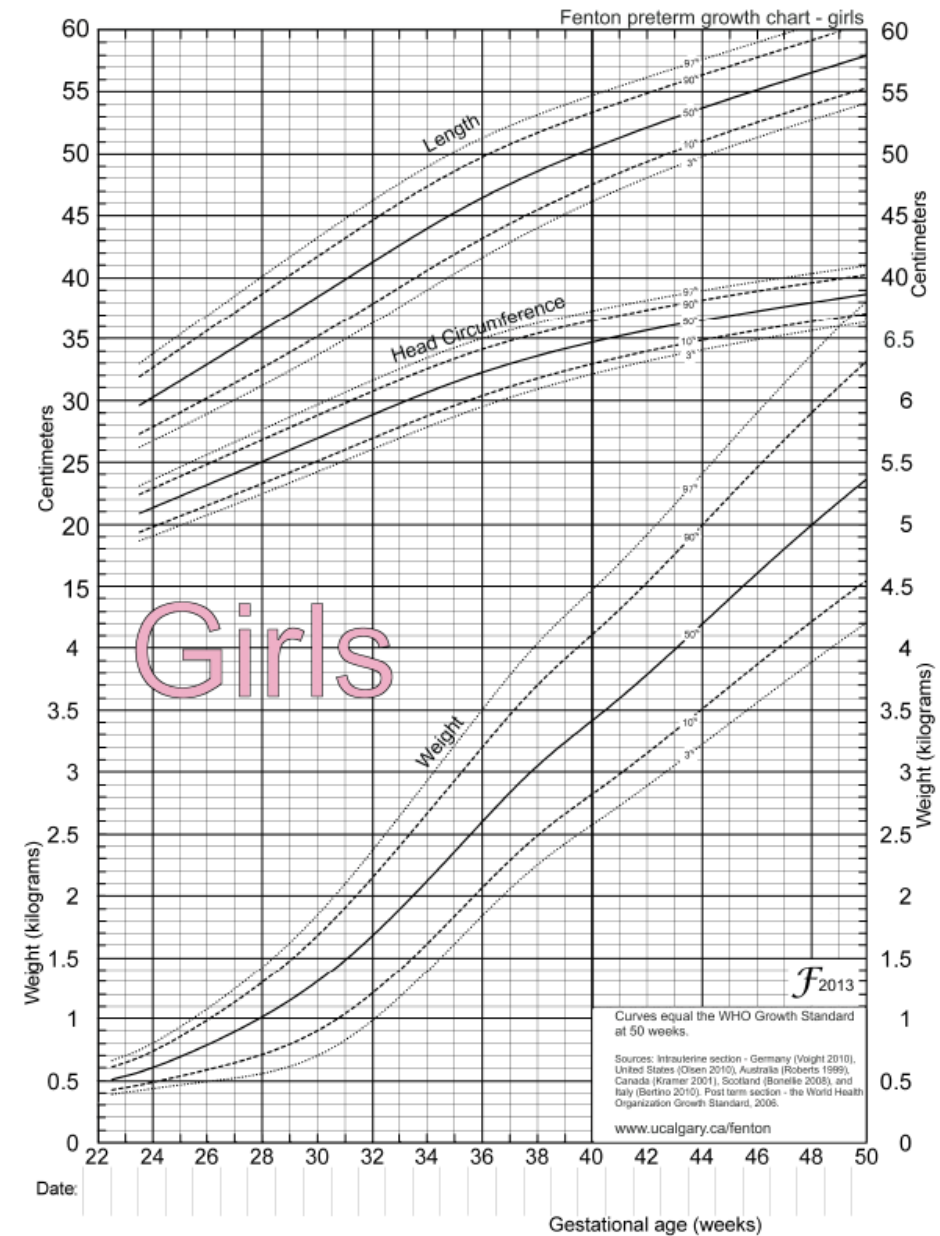
- Developed by a Canadian Dietitian.
- Updated in 2013
- Goes all the way to 22 weeks gestation through 50 weeks gestation.

## WHO Growth Charts for Term Infants

- Commonly use the birth through 2 years growth grids.
- Accounts for growth rates of breast fed infants appropriately.

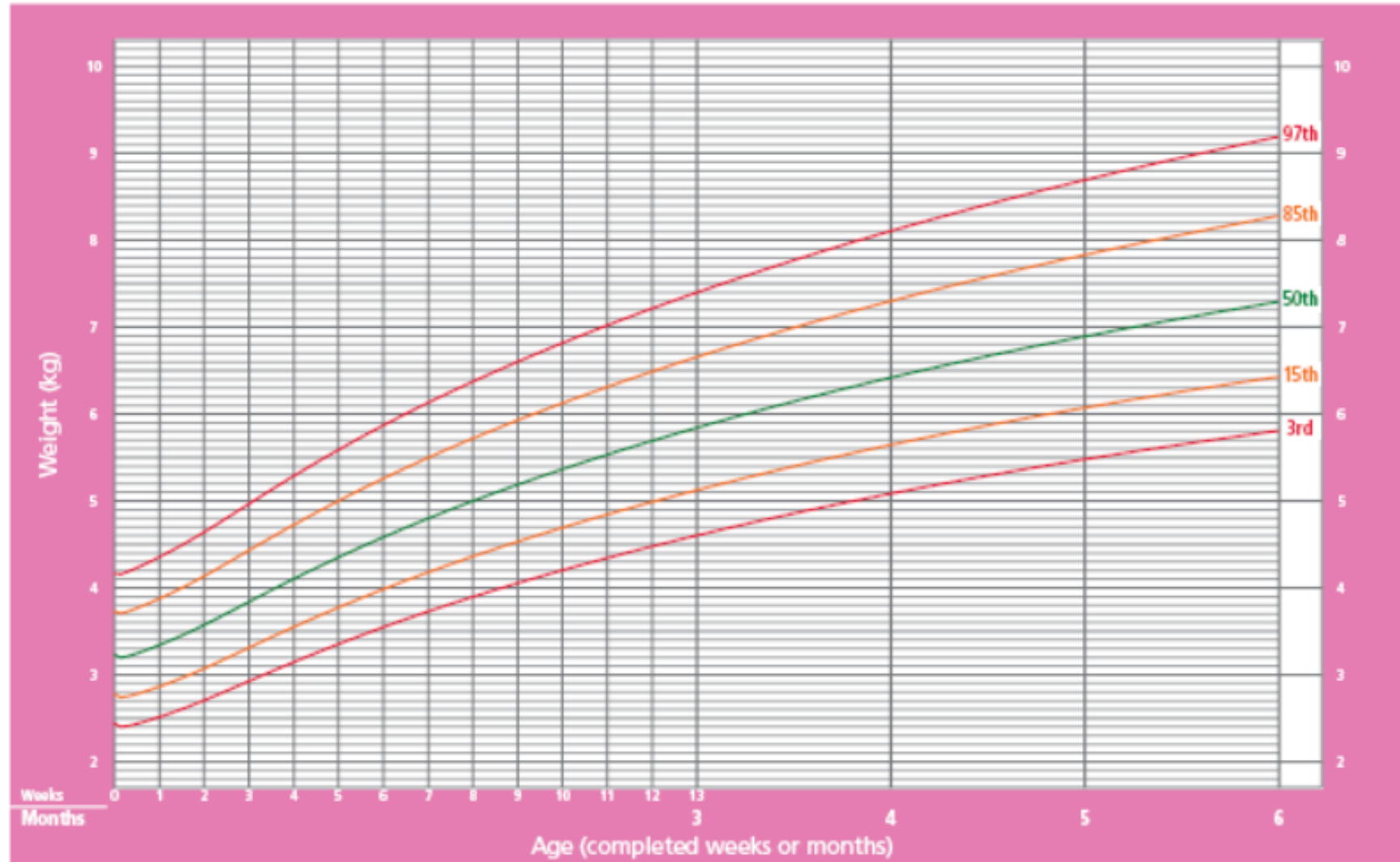
## CDC Growth Charts for Children > 2 Years of Age

- Used for children ages 2-19 years.



# Weight-for-age GIRLS

Birth to 6 months (percentiles)

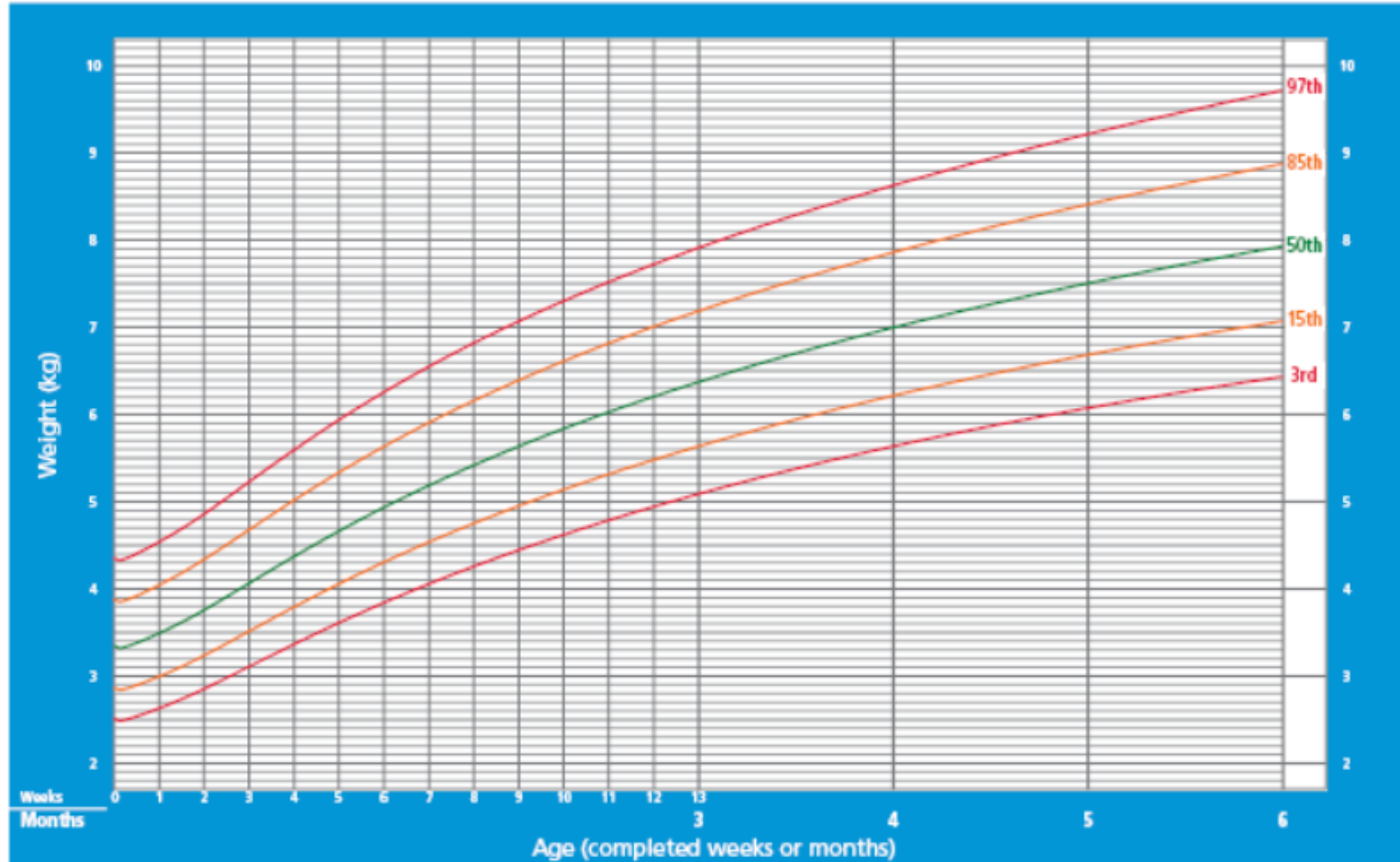


WHO Child Growth Standards



# Weight-for-age BOYS

Birth to 6 months (percentiles)



WHO Child Growth Standards

# GROWTH ASSESSMENT

Weights are taken daily and length/OFC are measured weekly.

Look at daily weight trends and weekly trends to determine if appropriate growth velocity is being met.

Plot measurements and use curve to show trends.

## Case study:

Baby girl born at 32 weeks gestation on 12/19. Birth weight was 1500g, birth length was 38cm and birth OFC was 29cm.

Where does she plot?

# GROWTH ASSESSMENT

Size for Gestational Age: (based on age-for-weight)

**Small for gestational age (SGA)**  $< 10^{\text{th}}$  percentile.

**Average for gestational age (AGA)** between the  $\geq 10^{\text{th}}$  percentile to  $\leq 90^{\text{th}}$  percentile.

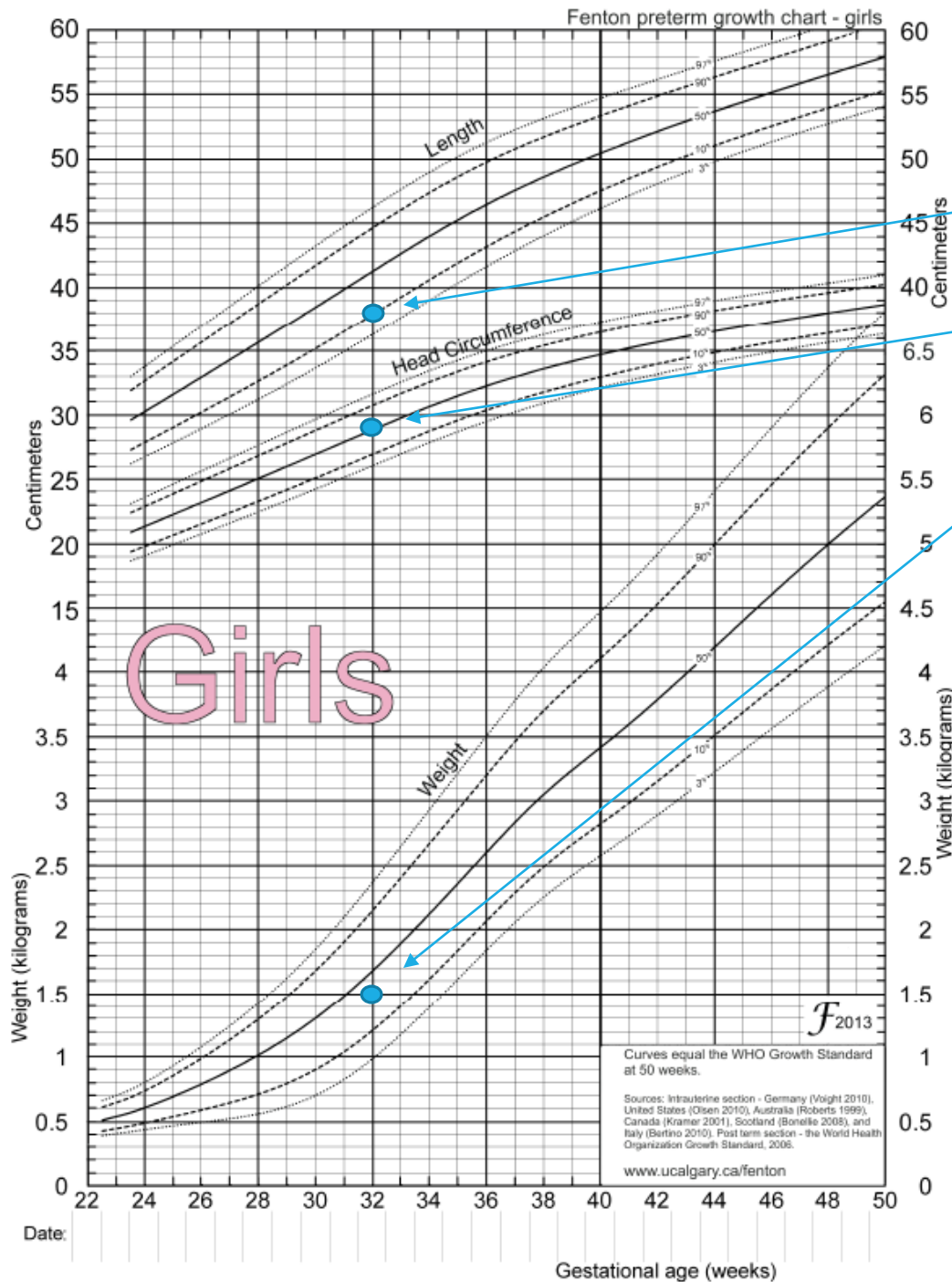
**Large for gestational age (LGA)**  $>$  the  $90^{\text{th}}$  percentile.

Case study:

Baby girl born at 32 weeks gestation on 12/19. Birth weight was 1501g, birth length was 38cm and birth OFC was 29cm.

What is her gestational age and what is her size for gestational age?

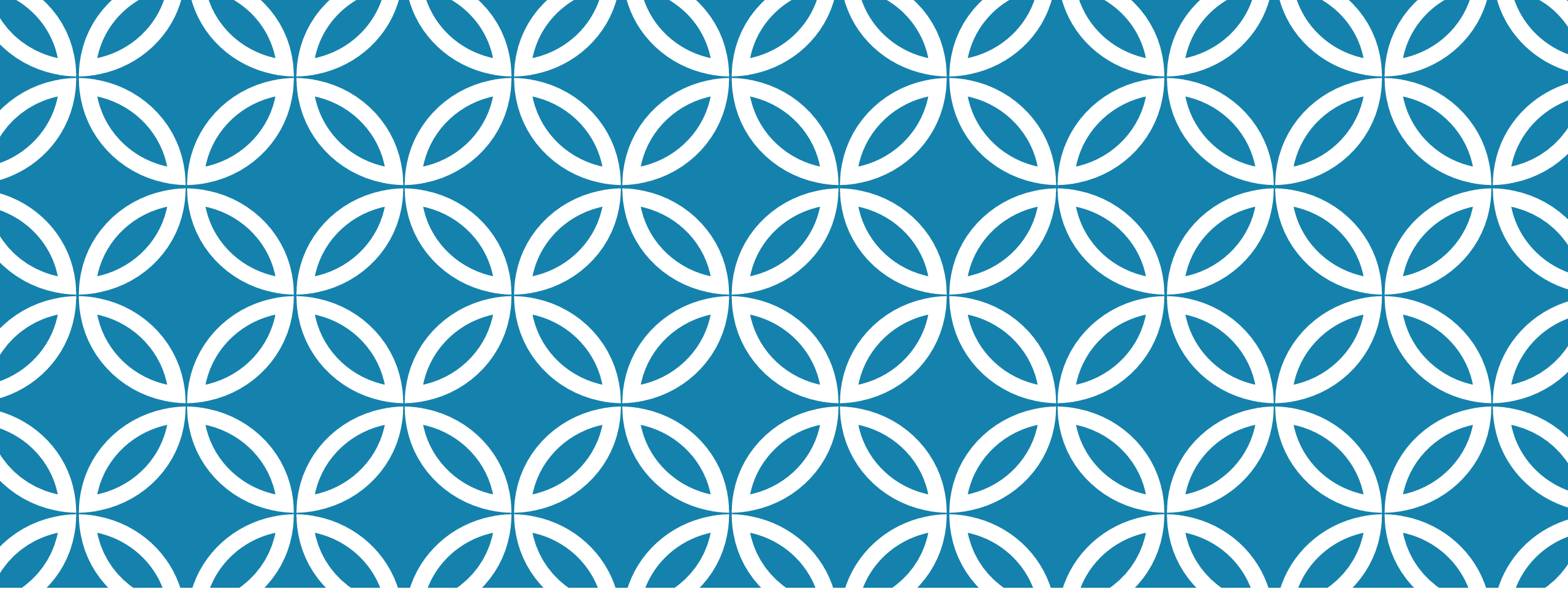




Length – 10<sup>th</sup> percentile

OFC - 50<sup>th</sup> percentile

Weight – 25-50<sup>th</sup> percentile  
(AGA infant)



# MEETING NUTRITION NEEDS

Tube feedings, TPN and Oral  
feedings

# CALCULATING ENTERAL NUTRITION

Birth weight and gestational age determine the nutrition plan of care for infants.

Infants  $\leq 1500\text{g}$  are started on minimal enteral nutrition (MEN) within 24hrs of birth at  $20\text{mL/kg/day}$  for 3 days. Advance up by  $20\text{-}30\text{mL/kg/day}$ .

- In combination with TPN support.

Infants  $1501\text{-}2000\text{g}$  or  $33\text{-}36$  weeks are started on enteral feedings at  $40\text{mL/kg/day}$ .

Infants  $\geq 37$  weeks and  $> 2000\text{g}$  are started on breastmilk or term formula and advanced as tolerated.

# CALCULATING TPN

Most infant's are started on TPN immediately (all those < 1500g).

If not full TPN, then IVFs are common to prevent hypoglycemia.

Review TPN orders to make sure they are meeting desired nutrition goals.

MD will write the daily TPN orders.

Work with MD and pharmacy to make changes in the micronutrients based on different disease state.

# ORAL FEEDINGS

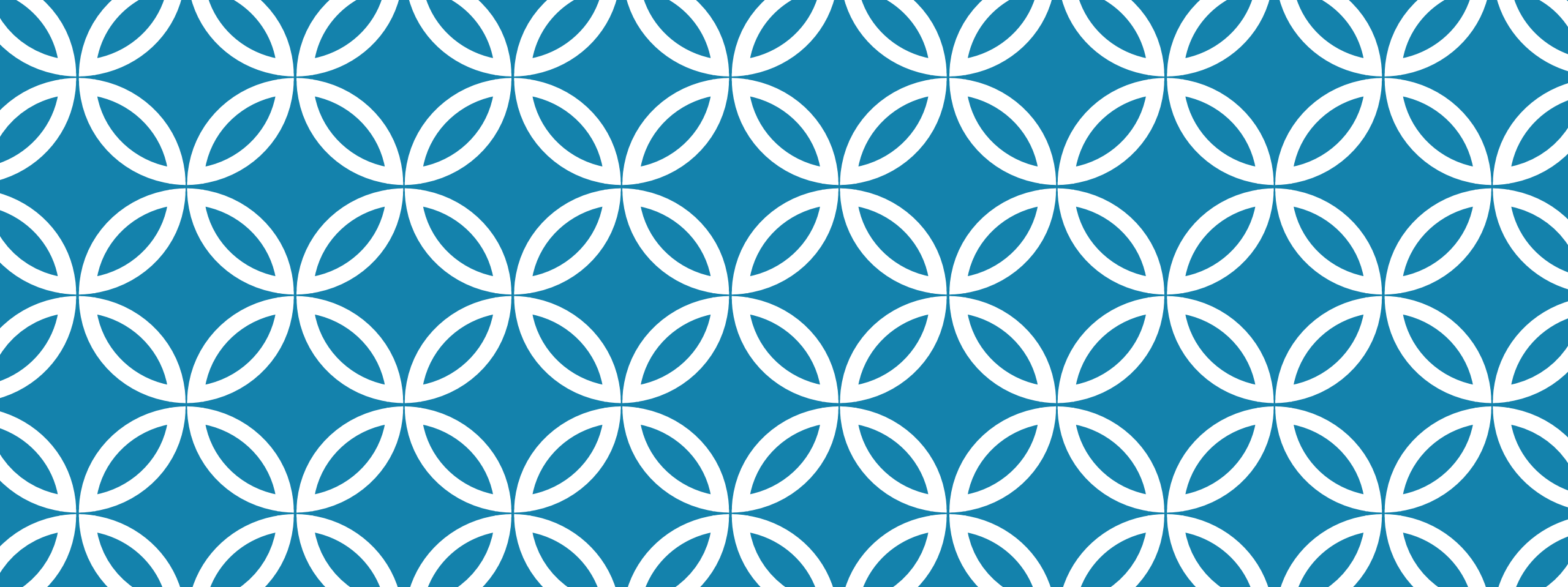
Oral feeding skills are able to be initiated at 34 weeks gestation.

If there are any feeding aversions or issues with feedings, consult the SLP.

- Apnea or bradycardia with feedings
- Issues with pacing
- Choking episodes

Video swallow study can be done to determine safety with feedings and if thickening agent is needed.

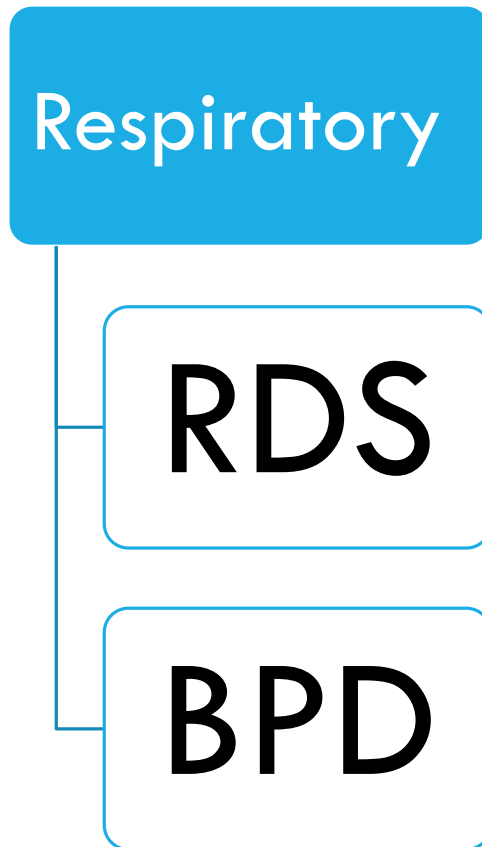
- Looking for aspiration or penetration.
- Use oat cereal to thicken formula.
- Nectar or honey consistency



# COMMON DIAGNOSES

In the NICU

# COMMON NICU DIAGNOSES



## RDS – Respiratory Distress Syndrome

- Deficiency of surfactant coating the interior part of the lungs, failure of lungs to expand/contract appropriately.

## BPD – Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia

- Abnormal development of lung tissue/under-developed lungs (>DOL#30)
- Often require respiratory support.

# COMMON NICU DIAGNOSES

Neurological

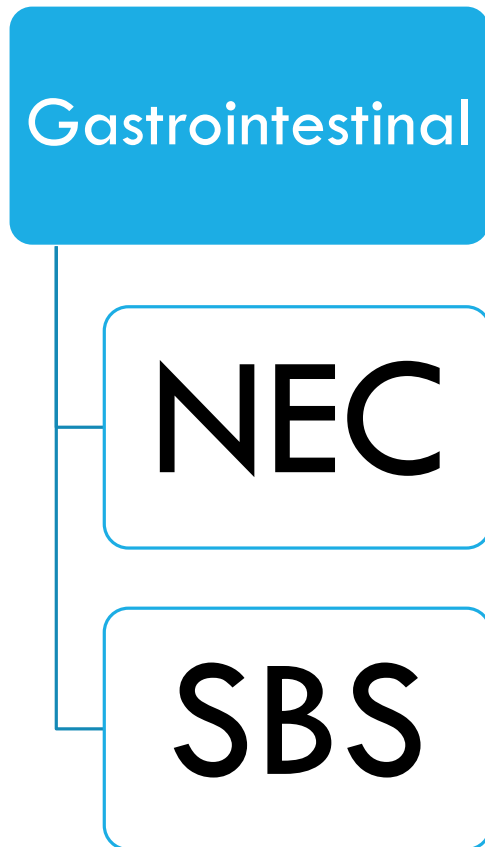
IVH

## IVH – Intraventricular Hemorrhage

- Bleeding into the fluid-filled ventricles of the brain. Blood vessels are fragile and can easily break.
- Common in premature babies. The smaller babies are at higher risk.
- Grades I-IV (least to most severe).



# COMMON NICU DIAGNOSES

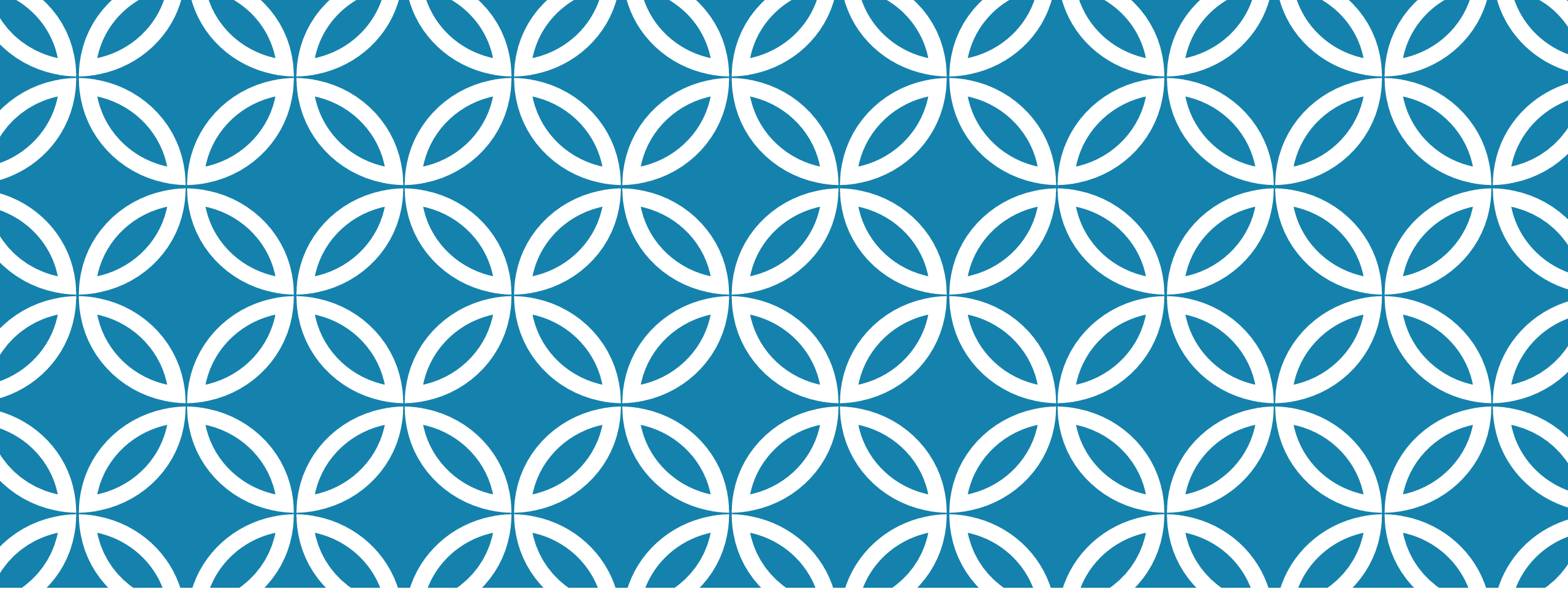


## NEC – Necrotizing Enterocolitis

- Necrosis of the bowel. Intestine becomes injured and dies off.
- Most common and serious intestinal illness in premature babies.
- Requires bowel rest and in some case bowel resection.

## SBS - Short Bowel Syndrome

- Consequence of small intestine loss, bowel resection, mucosal enteropathies, motility disorders.
- Creates issues with absorption and growth.



# FEEDING PREPARATION

NICU Formula Rooms

# FORMULA ROOMS

A clean room to thaw, mix and prepare feedings for infants.

Nurses come in/out of the room to obtain each feeding for each patient.

Feedings are thawed, mixed and prepared by a formula room technician.

All breast milk is stored in freezers and prepared feedings are in refrigerators.

Each patient has their on bin.



# FORMULA ROOMS

Formula room technicians follow recipes to prepare formula or fortified breast milk feedings.

Order and use donor breast milk as well for certain patients.

Feedings are good for 24 hours once prepared.



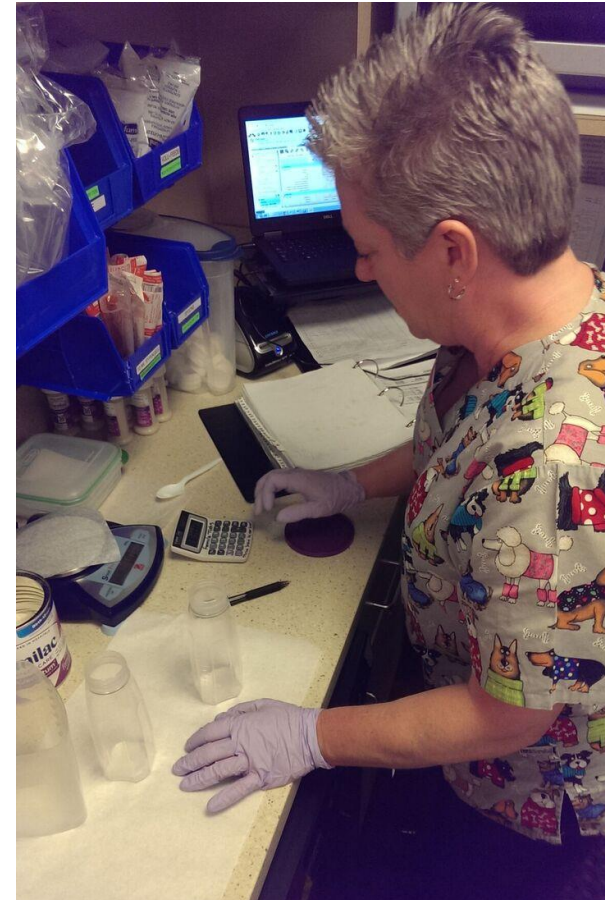
# ROLE OF DIETITIAN IN THE FORMULA ROOM

Work closely with formula techs to make sure that the feedings are being mixed appropriately.

Creates the recipes for the feedings.

Oversees any safety issues.

Helps with the staffing/schedule.





# CALCULATOR

Patient Name:		Bed Spot:	359-03
Weight:	1.56 kg	MR#	
Order:	39 ml	Q	3 hrs
Continuous:		ml/hr	order: 36mL/pump

donor if no mbm

## 24kcal FBM using Similac Liquid HMF (5ml/vial)

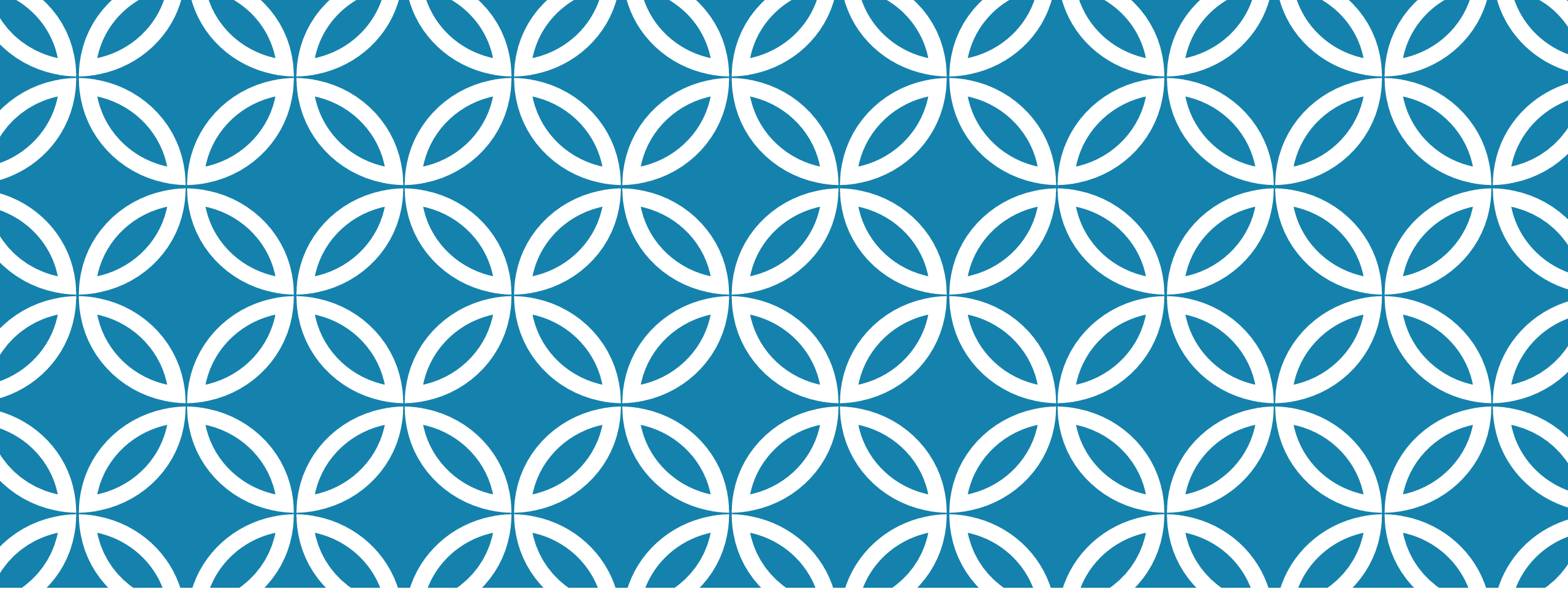
kcal conc ordered	24 kcal/oz	total kcal	## kcal
		total HMF in vials	##
bolus volume	312 ml		
continuous volumes	0 ml		
total volume	312 ml		
total volume in ounces	10.40 oz		
Mix	259 ml Breastmilk		
with	53 ml HMF		
subTotal	312 ml		



### To prepare with 12% overfill:

		<b>2 bottles:</b>	
Mix	290 ml Breastmilk		mL bm
with	59 ml HMF		mL HMF
TOTAL	349 ml		

Similac Liquid Human Milk Fortifier provides 7.5 kcal/vial and 5ml/vial.  
Breastmilk (mom's or donor) is assumed to provide 20 kcal/oz.



# WRAPPING IT UP

Final thoughts

# BEING A NICU DIETITIAN ...

Very rewarding, but challenging patients.

Get to see changes happen quickly.

Amazing to see these little 24 week babies, grow and get to go home.

Some patients stay awhile and you develop a relationship with them and their families.

Constantly learning more and more about this population.





# CONCLUSION

Hopefully you have an idea about ...

- The history of neonatology
- Feeding products for infants
- How to plot growth
- More about what a RD in the NICU does on a daily basis
- Familiar with common NICU diagnoses
- The role of the RD in the formula room



# QUESTIONS

