

Carrie Barnes:

It gives us the ability to render care to that baby right at the bedside and not have to put them into the nursery.

John Ronan:

When we were planning this out, our pediatric department was offsite and so we said, "Boy, what an opportunity to bring them on site and really have that care right close to each other."

Announcer:

In this mini episode of Tim Talk, Tim talked with Carrie Barnes, manager obstetrics and John Ronan, president of Northern Light Maine Coast Hospital, about the new birthing center at Maine Coast and how it's helping deliver better rural maternal health care.

Tim Dentry:

Carrie, how does Maine Coast's quality and service for our OB patients, including this new facility at Maine Coast, help our patients in their confidence and trust of our maternal and infant healthcare?

Carrie Barnes:

Thank you for asking that question. The OB unit itself, the facility, has really put a lot of effort into making sure that it is the best place possible for these women to come in and really come through one of the most important days of their lives. Its proximity to the OR helps with the safety of the moms, so if there's anything emergent, the OR is right there on the same floor, whereas before we were separated and there was that long elevator ride. We don't have that anymore. The forethought that everyone who was involved in building this new unit had was incredible, and we really appreciate the huge rooms that we have so that mother can have all of the support she needs regardless of the number of people that requires. It gives us the ability to render care to that baby right at the bedside and not have to put them into the nursery.

We truly can give that mother the experience that she wants. Our staff are just incredibly compassionate and capable nurses. They just are amazing. I can't say enough about them. They drill as a team. They drill with the rest of the team. The network of people taking care of these women is incredible. We drill with our pediatricians to make sure that if there's an emergency, that we know how to respond. We include our respiratory therapy, we include our OB-GYNs, our anesthesia providers. Soup to nuts, we try really hard to make sure that we're prepared for any contingency.

We have so many opportunities for the staff to learn and grow so that they can really feel confident in what they're providing for these moms. We just have an incredible network that supports the staff, the NICU. We work very closely with the NICU. They actually come and provide some of our education. We just had an education day with the NICU staff so that we can support those babies for any length of time until we can get them to the place that they need. It really is incredible the support that the facility has given us, but also all of the network around us is phenomenal. It's phenomenal.

Tim Dentry:

Thank you, Carrie.

John Ronan:

If I could jump in on that, Tim-

Tim Dentry:

You bet, John.

John Ronan:

... real quickly. I think Carrie mentioned a couple of things that are important. When we looked at the physical location where we would build this unit, Carrie mentioned if you walk down the hall, you'd go from our pediatrics department to our OB department to our OR department. When we were planning this out, our pediatric department was offsite and so we said, "Boy, what an opportunity to bring them on site and really have that care right close to each other." So that was one of the changes we made. We also have a strong midwifery program, but we also have always on call an OB-GYN doc so that we're ready to... Carrie said something, if we need to get into the OR a more complicated delivery, we have that available for our patients to be able to have that service.

Tim Dentry:

Very good. Very good. Thank you both for that.

Announcer:

Thank you for listening. You can find new episodes on our website at northernlighthouse.org/healthyhappywise, and on YouTube, Apple and Spotify, making it easier for you to listen on the go on your favorite app.