EDITH M. SPENCER-MORALES, MD

Board-Certified Neonatologist & Pediatrician | NICU Medical Director | Clinical Quality & Medical Review

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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Board-certified neonatologist and pediatrician with more than a decade of post-fellowship practice and NICU Medical Director leadership since 2018. Extensive experience in high-risk newborn care, clinical peer review, evidence-based guideline development, quality improvement, multidisciplinary decision-making, and physician education. Experienced in reviewing complex clinical issues, developing care standards, evaluating safety and quality concerns, and leading initiatives designed to reduce unwarranted variation and improve outcomes. Brings frontline neonatal expertise directly transferable to national medical management, utilization review, medical-necessity decision support, and provider collaboration.

MEDICAL MANAGEMENT & NEONATAL LEADERSHIP STRENGTHS

Neonatology Subject-Matter Expertise • Medical Direction & Clinical Governance • Clinical Peer Review • Complex Case Review • Quality Improvement • Evidence-Based Guidelines • Patient Safety • Provider Education • Multidisciplinary Care Coordination • Performance Improvement • Resource Stewardship • High-Risk Newborn Care • Pharmacy & Treatment Review • Research & Scientific Communication • English/Spanish

MEDICAL LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

NICU Medical Director / Neonatologist — Wellington Regional Medical Center March 2014–Present

- Serve as NICU Medical Director (2018–present), providing physician leadership while maintaining active neonatal practice.
- Lead and support clinical quality, patient-safety, protocol-development, and evidence-based care initiatives for high-risk newborns and families.
- Serve as Peer Reviewer (2018–present), applying physician judgment to clinical quality, case review, and practice oversight.
- Serve as Pharmacy and Treatment Committee Reviewer (2018–present), contributing to treatment review, medication-related decision-making, and clinical governance.
- Collaborate with physicians, nursing, pharmacy, respiratory therapy, and other disciplines to evaluate complex clinical issues, implement care standards, and improve consistency of practice.
- Develop and communicate clinical guidelines and educational initiatives for staff and families, supporting adoption of evidence-based neonatal care.

Neonatologist — Northwest Medical Center January 2021–Present

Neonatologist — Manatee Memorial Hospital January 2022–2023

Neonatologist — Lakewood Ranch Medical Center January 2022–2023

Neonatologist — Children's Hospital of Orange County September 2012–2014

Pediatrician — Gateway Medical Group Pediatrics February 2013–2014

Neonatologist — Torrance Memorial Neonatology Group / Torrance Memorial Medical Center January 2013–2014

SELECTED QUALITY, SAFETY & RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVES

- 2025 — Developing a NICU pain-management and control program in collaboration with pharmacy.
- 2025 — Developing a music-therapy program focused on reducing physiologic stress in the NICU.
- 2023 — Evaluated a ventilator-associated pneumonia outbreak and created preventive measures.
- 2022 — Participated in the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative Skin-to-Skin Initiative.
- 2022 — Developed a sudden infant death prevention initiative incorporating birth-to-discharge staff and parent education.
- 2020 — Developed MRSA prevention, detection, and treatment guidelines in response to a NICU outbreak.
- 2020 — Developed blood-draw minimization guidelines with the goal of reducing transfusions and unnecessary resource use.
- 2019 — Developed individualized neonatal feeding guidelines and initiated a neonatal probiotics/NEC-prevention protocol.
- 2018 — Developed neonatal withdrawal syndrome management guidelines.

CLINICAL REVIEW, EDUCATION & SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION

- NRP Instructor, 2010–2016; NRP certified from 2008 to present, with experience educating clinicians in neonatal resuscitation principles and practice.
- Conducted research on neonatal lung maturation, including “Nebulized Rosiglitazone: A Novel Delivery Method for Accelerating Neonatal Lung Maturation.”
- Conducted research on exhaled-breath condensates in very-low-birth-weight infants, including development of a diagnostic technique related to ventilator-associated pneumonia.
- Conducted research on neurodevelopmental outcomes and complications of late-preterm infants, including outpatient follow-up and retrospective analysis.
- Experienced communicating clinical evidence and practice standards through multidisciplinary education, presentations, protocols, and family guidance.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Pediatric Academic Societies Annual Meeting (2011, 2012) • Western Society for Pediatric Research (2011, 2012) • AAP Section on Perinatal Pediatrics Western Conference on Perinatal Research (2011) • Puerto Rican Pediatric Annual Convention (2008) • Puerto Rico Prematurity Summit / March of Dimes (2007) • Hispanic Congress of Health Professions / Multidisciplinary Conference in Clinical Research (2007)

BOARD CERTIFICATION, LICENSURE & CLINICAL CREDENTIALS

Neonatology Board Certification, 2014–Present • Pediatric Board Certification, 2012–Present • Florida Medical License, 2014–Present • DEA, 2014–Present • NRP, 2008–Present • NRP Instructor, 2010–2016 • ECMO experience, 2010–2014 • California Medical License, 2009–2015

EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Neonatal Medicine Fellowship — Harbor-UCLA Medical Center / David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, 2009–2012

Pediatric Residency — Episcopal Hospital St. Lucas / Ponce School of Medicine, 2006–2009

Fifth Pathway Program — Saint Vincent’s Hospital / New York Medical College, 2005–2006

Medical Degree — Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara School of Medicine, 2000–2004

Pre-Medicine — University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, 1996–2000

Emerging Leaders Program — Envision Physician Services, 2016–2017

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish