

PREMATURE BIRTH

543,000 Babies are born prematurely each year

- 1 out of 8 babies are born premature in the U.S.
- Premature Birth costs an average of 15x higher than healthy, full term
- Prematurity accounts for almost half of hospital charges for infants
- Infants born less than 32 weeks gestation have a readmission rate of 53% in their first year
- Average first-year medical costs (inpatient & outpatient) are nearly 10 times greater for preterm infants than for full-term infants.



Premature rates have declined for the first time in 30 years.

It is important to know every pregnant woman is at risk for premature birth.

- Preconception health & wellness awareness
- Signs of preterm labor
- Regular prenatal check ups
- Minimize stress
- Do not smoke or consume alcohol, illicit drugs or some prescription drugs
- Signs of infection & notify your doctor

COMPLICATIONS

- Newborn complications may include:
 - Respiratory Distress Syndrome
 - Intraventricular Hemorrhage
 - Patent Ductus Arteriosus
 - Necrotizing Enterocolitis
 - Retinopathy of Prematurity
- Long term potential problems:
 - Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, Learning problems
 - Chronic lung disease
 - Hearing & vision problems

HMC CASE MANAGEMENT

- 07/08 Born at 29 weeks, 2 lbs, 7 ozs; 58 day stay at a cost of \$164,750
 - VP shunt required before d/c
 - 1 OBS for shunt revision, no complications
- NO FURTHER ER/OBS or ADMITS to present
- Total savings; \$29,744: CM costs; \$3,974
- ROI 4.75:1

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