



Opening of Riley Maternity Tower – FAQs

Q. Is the Maternity Tower opening? When?

A. Yes, on Sept. 12. This is an exciting time as we ramp up to open the tower to mothers and babies with various birthing scenarios from normal, routine deliveries to those requiring the most complex care.

Q. Why did we build the Maternity Tower at Riley?

A. Riley at IU Health is among a handful of organizations across the country that have strategic programs to tackle some of the toughest health problems, including infant and maternal mortality. Our highly skilled pediatric and adult care teams will give moms, babies and whole families immediate access to the best possible care to meet their needs. This project extends Riley's ability to coordinate care for moms and babies who need it most. It leverages the strength and expertise of caregivers from across the academic health center (both adult and pediatric), giving them a state-of-the-art "home base" for collaboration and continuing innovation.

Safe Care

Q. How are moms at highest risk identified?

A. High-risk moms will be identified by referral from Maternity Fetal Medicine, internal physicians and other obstetricians. Referring physicians from across the state will also collaborate with Riley to manage patient care. The Maternity Tower will serve all OB patients. Expectant moms can arrive with plans for regular delivery and have confidence that they will receive the best care even as the plans evolve and they choose or need to go a different route. And with the Level 4 NICU, Riley will be in position to provide care for mom and baby. From an OB perspective, we will serve all patients from natural birth options to those requiring the highest acuity Level 4 care that requires specialists.

- Midwifery – women who require the lowest level of care would be able to participate in our natural birth options, including tubs and holistic care. Many prospective mothers are interested in an experience akin to a birthing center, and the Maternity Tower will offer many of those same amenities.
- Highest acuity Level 4 – these women and babies need the expertise of specialists.

Q. How will we safely care for women/moms at a children's hospital?

A. High-risk moms will receive care at Riley's Maternity Tower. Antepartum patients will also receive care at the Maternity Tower as our highly trained Maternal Fetal Medicine Physicians will be onsite managing their care with our adult specialists. Only a small subset of extreme critical care patients/mothers will go to Methodist for highly specialized care by our Cardiovascular and/or Neurosurgeons, if needed.

A dedicated, multidisciplinary group of experts have lent their expertise to design and develop comprehensive plans for the safe care of women at Riley. The group includes leaders and experts from every specialty that could touch patients: cardiology, neurology, critical care, emergency medicine, anesthesia, and others.

The group has walked through hundreds of potential care scenarios, establishing appropriate plans, drafting guiding principles for care and scheduling individual meetings with specialties that consult on care for moms and babies. Our current practices and future needs have been considered. These plans have been developed with care teams based at Methodist and Riley.

Riley's Level IV OB designation and Level IV NICU designations require that many supports and features be on-site. Those requirements also factor into our effort to keep moms and babies together.



Q. Where are we on Level 4 certification and other certifications required or desired for this project?

A. We have already been certified at Methodist. However, when you change physical address, you must apply for recertification.

Riley has already submitted our application to ISDH with our new location. They will give us time to get settled in and then will schedule their visit to complete a new survey of the space. They will want to verify that we are able to take care of every patient safely in the new space and will look at all new processes that have been put into place.

Q. What is an OB ICU? What is an OB ED?

A. The OB Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the Maternity Tower will house all patients that need higher levels of care and high-intensity management. Riley will have three OB ICU beds that will be staffed with OB ICU physician and nursing, laborist and anesthesia around the clock (24/7) to provide safe care for critically ill patients. Specific medical criteria outline when a patient moves to OB ICU (triggers for more intense monitoring and treatment 1:1 nursing care) and patients at the Riley Maternity Tower will receive the best and safest care.

The OB Emergency Department will be an extension of the regular Emergency Department and will be certified as an Emergency Room where we will triage – manage, stabilize and treat – pregnant women. State regulation requires assessment of a patient coming to the ED before they are moved to another floor. The OB ED will target OB patients. It is consistent with a regular ED but for OB patients. It will be open 24/7 providing everything from urgent care type matters for a pregnant mom to OB ICU.

Q. How many team members and/or departments are involved in the RMNH move?

A. We are training and educating about 500 people including Maternity Tower team members and those from the ancillary departments that will support the Maternity Tower. Nearly every area of Riley is involved from the blood bank and pathology to child life, security, bereavement and beyond.

Q. Are there any departments involved that one might not naturally think of, i.e. pharmacy, radiology?

A. Yes, every ancillary department at Riley will be involved. Chaplaincy, music therapy, child life – you name it. The Maternity Tower will have expanded access and support services for our moms, babies and families.

Q. Have the crucial new hires and areas of expertise required for this effort been secured?

A. In addition to the expert, tenured staff transitioning from the Methodist campus. Riley is recruiting and training additional highly skilled and specialized physicians and nurses for the Maternity Tower.

- Nursing staff recruited
- OB ICU physician recruitment and hiring ongoing
- As always, we are agile and have the capability to adapt. Even as we continue to secure these specialized physicians, Riley will move forward as there are enough ICU physicians within the IU Health system to support the efforts to provide the safest care for our mothers and babies

If asked what has changed since project delay announcement where we shared staffing as one of the considerations for the decision: As a country and as a healthcare system, we are in a different place in the COVID-19 pandemic. People are continuing to be vaccinated, along with masking advisories which have been shown to help slow the spread of the



disease. We are seeing decreased numbers of inpatients in IU Health with COVID-19 – about a quarter of patients seen at the peak. Consequently, we are in a better place to adapt to different challenges.

Patient Move

Q. If a mom arrives at the Simon Family Tower Emergency Department but should have gone to the RMNH OB Emergency Department, how will we get that mom to the right place safely?

A. All OB patients will come up to the OB ED in the Maternity Tower. Even though we share an ambulance bay, these patients will come directly up to the OB ED.

If the mom's condition warrants, there is an OB Response Team that would go to the Simon Family Tower. For instance if a mom is crowning when she arrives, the OB team would be activated and we would bring staff to the mom to deliver in one of the rooms where there is equipment in the Simon Family Tower ER for delivery and stabilization and then move to the Maternity Tower. If someone arrives outside of the ambulance process, the team will help bring patient up.

While the means of arrival and condition of the mom and baby may change, Riley will always do what is best for the mom in the location that is best for her.

Q. When will we get more information about the plans for moving patients?

A. There is a wide range of expertise on this committee with some of the members having performed multiple successful hospital moves – including mother/baby units – throughout the country. The group is mapping out the process, working with external partners to make sure the city and community are prepared and providing input. Our focus is on moving moms and babies safely.

We are proactively planning for the day. For example, elective deliveries will be postponed so that we can move everyone safely. We will be prepared for emergency deliveries and critical care patients that will need to come to our Level IV OB hospital for a higher level of care from our partnering hospitals. We have a comprehensive plan that takes advantage of the knowledge, expertise and experiences of our team.

Q: Why did we decide to move patients on the weekend? Is this safe as there is often less staff working on the weekend?

A: The safety of our moms and babies is always our priority and will be our focus that day. A move on the weekend minimizes the impact on Methodist and Riley hospitals as well as the surrounding community. Throughout our planning process, we have coordinated with police, city planners, neighbors and many others to understand anticipated activity that weekend and have developed a plan that will provide a safe, efficient and positive experience for our families and team members.

Staffing resources will be maximized and team members will be engaged to support the preparation before, during and following the move as the Maternity Tower opens and moves through stabilization.

Patient Move Day will be a hospital-wide and systemwide effort leveraging the full engagement and participation of team members throughout IU Health who we know share Riley's excitement about bringing the Maternity Tower to expectant moms and babies at all care levels.



Q. How will we determine which patients will deliver at Methodist or Riley?

A. Any patient that is delivering will be at Riley in the Maternity Tower. The Maternity Tower will not be trauma accredited therefore any adult trauma will need to go to Methodist for their care. Riley is still a Level I Trauma Center for Pediatrics.

Q. What are “cut offs” for women going to Riley or Methodist ED?

A. After the official move, all maternity services will be provided at the Maternity Tower. Methodist will not be designated or certified with the State for OB services after we open the Maternity Tower. High-risk moms will receive care at Riley’s Maternity Tower. Antepartum patients will also receive care at the Maternity Tower as our highly trained Maternal Fetal Medicine Physicians will be onsite managing their care with our adult specialists. Only a small subset of extreme critical care patients/mothers will go to Methodist for highly specialized care by our Cardiovascular and/or Neurosurgeons, if needed.

Q. When will Riley communicate with OB providers?

A. We will communicate proactively with providers as some are creating birthing plans with expectant mothers now for delivery around the time the Maternity Tower opens this fall. No elective c-sections or inductions will be scheduled in the 48 hours leading up to the move date. Internal discussions are underway to develop a triage case plan for any emergency deliveries and Level IV patients that will need to transfer to Maternity Tower for a higher level of care. Maternity Tower updates will be communicated to OB practitioners through section meetings and the Physician Liaison team.

Q. How long will the patient move take?

A. We aim to complete the patient move in one day.

Q. What safety measures are in place during the move to keep moms and babies safe?

A. A comprehensive move plan is under development. In addition, no elective C-sections or inductions will be scheduled in the 48 hours leading up to the move date. Internal discussions are underway to develop a triage case plan for any emergency deliveries.

Q. Why are we moving patients rather than opening the new tower and closing the Methodist unit once patients are naturally discharged?

A. Because we have patients who may not be discharged for months, it will be safest to move all moms and babies to the Maternity Tower on the move day. While we will staff both areas until we move patients over, on Patient Move Day we are transitioning all OB resources, staff and services to the Maternity Tower where we will provide the safest and highest levels of care.

Training

Q. When will team member training begin? What types of training will be involved?

A. Team member training is targeted to support readiness as the Maternity Tower opens in Fall 2021. Training will include basic web-based safety training in advance of the building opening so that team members work safely in the building. That computer-based training will begin in May or June. Onsite training will begin in July. More details will be made available to those team members involved.

Q. When will Day in the Life activities begin and what will be involved?

A. Day in the Life activities allow us to work through various scenarios and the processes involved with key decision makers and the core group involved at the table. For example, we move through the process from the moment the



ambulance brings in a patient, to putting orders in Cerner, to making sure the equipment is in the right place, etc. This allows validation of everything from how Cerner is working to where to find the lab results. During Day in the Life, we are not checking clinical knowledge but validating process. There are multiple tracks – documenting who should be involved, observing how everyone is interacting and debriefing at the end of day. Afterwards, any issues identified will be addressed and then practiced during the exact scenario on another day. This ensures that all new processes are validated and in place to provide safe care of both mom and baby in the new space.

Miscellaneous

Q. Will there be tours of the space?

A. Yes, there are plans for tours of the Maternity Tower in late June, early July.

Q. Can you share more about the Ronald McDonald House Family Room? What services will be offered to families there?

A. The Ronald McDonald House Family Room will be a resource for families in the Maternity Tower. There is a kitchen and designated area for eating. There is private space for resting, reading or quiet time. There is a hydromassage chair for mothers and a spa area with space for a hairdresser to wash and cut hair.

Do you have a question? Email RileyExecs@iuhealth.org.