

Wyatt's Journey

A NICU alumni story

STARTING APRIL 2, 2014, I was so sick, I knew I had to be pregnant. I previously had been diagnosed with Cyclical Vomiting Syndrome, so I thought on top of “morning sickness,” my symptoms were normal.

But at 26 weeks, on September 1, I went to Labor and Delivery at another facility to be checked out. I had such severe back pain that I couldn't walk. Hours went by and they were about to send me home, when all of a sudden 2 doctors ran in stating there was an ambulance on the way to transfer me to UWMC for more observation. When I asked the reason, they replied I had hypertension and severe preeclampsia.

When I arrived at UWMC, an IV was placed and magnesium was started, along with fluids to stop the seizure activity. I made it 6 more days and then I started to have a stroke. They rushed me into the surgery suite and began my Cesarean section.

At 7:37 p.m., my son was born at 2 pounds 3 ounces, 13.5 inches long. He was so small, I didn't hear him cry when he was born.



Wyatt in the NICU

I was taken to the Mother Baby Unit while Wyatt was taken to the 4th floor to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. I wasn't able to see my baby for the first 8 hours of his life, other than in a picture the nurse took before they had to put him on a ventilator to help him breathe.

When I was finally able to see Wyatt, the elevator ride had made me so sick! All I could do was ask if he was OK and then I needed to leave. I was discharged 4 days later with medicine for my blood pressure.



Wyatt at 9 months

Wyatt had a very long road ahead. He was diagnosed with a heart condition called *patent ductus arteriosus* (PDA), a bowel condition called *necrotizing enterocolitis* (NEC), and an eye condition called *retinopathy of prematurity* (ROP). He was given many medicines and had many procedures done to make sure he was doing OK!

After all the ups and downs with breathing and feeding issues, and just about everything else, 93 days later we got to take our sweet miracle home! We were discharged December 8, 2014, 1 day after his due date. We were able to take him home without extra oxygen or feeding tubes – only some vitamins for him to take. We were so lucky that both Wyatt and I made it.

Since leaving the NICU, Wyatt has been doing so well. He has been a happy, healthy, growing guy. At 9 months, he now has 3 teeth (1 upper and 2 lower) and is crawling! He surprises me every day with how fast he learns.