

Pediatric Intensive Care Unit

Scope of Service

The PICU is an 18-bed medical/surgical pediatric critical care unit that serves children from birth to 21 years of age. The major admitting diagnoses for the PICU include cardiac surgeries, general surgeries requiring postoperative intensive care, emergency airway management, trauma, burns, multi-system organ failure, and hemodynamic instability.



Delivery of Care

Care is routinely provided by a multidisciplinary team composed of Pediatric Intensivists, Attending Specialty Physicians, Resident Physicians, Registered Nurses, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Physical/Occupational Therapists, Respiratory Therapists, Child Life Specialists, Clinicians I & II, Unit Secretaries, Social Workers, and Chaplains. The nursing care delivery system is a primary nursing model that utilizes a team of RN's, Clinicians, Respiratory Therapists, and Unit Secretaries to provide a holistic care approach to patients and families. The RN is responsible for coordinating all patient care activities to ensure patient care needs are met. This may be done by providing care to the patient or by delegating care to other caregivers based on individual team members' skills, abilities, and competencies. It is also the responsibility of the RN to coordinate discharge-planning activities.

Staffing Plan

The RN to patient ratio is 2:1, 1:1, or 1:2, based on patient acuity and the recommended guidelines in the PICU Policy Manual. Patient census in the unit also plays a role in staffing requirements. To ensure availability of a qualified staff member to care for critically ill patients, PICU RN's have scheduled call hours. The lower nurse/patient ratio allows for closer monitoring and more frequent assessments and interventions. Vital signs and a complete head-to-toe assessment are done every hour on critically ill children. Weights are done every day, usually on the night shift, as well as routine labs.

MOST COMMON PEDIATRIC CONCEPTS

- Pediatric Growth & Development
- Pediatric Assessment
- Pediatric Lab Value Interpretation
- Pediatric Medication Administration
- Principles of Fetal Circulation
- Pain Assessment / Management
- Patient/Family Teaching / Adult Learning Principles

MOST COMMON EQUIPMENT

- Hewlett Packer Cardiac Monitor
- Ivion® Trilogy IV Infusion Pump
- ISTAT®
- Medfusion® and Smart® Syringe Pumps
- Oxygen Delivery Devices
- Servo Ventilators
- Oscillator Ventilators
- Pacemakers
- Central Venous Catheters
- Arterial Catheters
- Central Venous Pressure Monitors
- External Ventriculostomies
- ICP Bolts / Monitors
- Nasogastric/Nasoduodenal/Gastric Tubes
- Chest Tubes
- Foley Catheters

MOST COMMON MEDICATIONS

- Acetaminophen (Tylenol®)
- Epinephrine
- Norepinephrine
- Norcuron
- Atropine
- Racemic Epinephrine
- Gentamycin
- Vancomycin
- Morphine
- Fentanyl
- Methadone
- Insulin
- Dopamine
- Dobutamine
- Milrenone
- Lasix
- Vecuronium
- Lorazepam
- Versed
- Chloral Hydrate
- Ketamine
- Propofol
- Albuterol
- Albumin
- Mannitol
- Amiodarone
- Digoxin
- Potassium Chloride
- Calcium Chloride
- Calcium Gluconate
- Magnesium Sulfate
- Succinylcholine
- Rocuronium
- Narcan
- Prednisone
- Prednisolone
- Decadron®
- Phylephrine
- Blood Products
- Prostaglandin E

MOST COMMON DIAGNOSES

- Hemodynamic Instability
- Congenital Heart Defects
- ARDS
- Respiratory Distress
- Respiratory Arrest
- Acute Airway Management
- RSV/Bronchiolitis
- DIC
- Neurological Disorders
- Trauma
- Posterior Spinal Fusions
- Pneumonia
- Sepsis
- Cardiogenic Shock/CHF
- DKA
- Asthma/Reactive Airway Disease
- Craniofacial Reconstruction
- Renal Failure
- Toxic Ingestions
- Child Abuse
- SIADH

MOST COMMON PROCEDURES

- ECG Interpretation
- CXR Interpretation
- ABG Interpretation
- Mechanical Ventilatio
- Neuromuscular Blockade
- CVL Placement/Blood Draw/Care
- Rapid Sequence Intubation
- Procedural Moderate Sedation
- Resuscitation
- Lumbar Puncture
- EEG
- Nasoduodenal Tube Placement
- Foley Catheterization
- Suctioning
- ICP Monitoring
- Nitric Oxide
- Blood Product Administration
- Heliox
- Continuous Nebulizer Treatments
- Determination of Brain Death

