



Some of our PICU nurses

## PICU staff

The care of your child is managed by a team of healthcare professionals who will keep you updated on your child's condition. Please feel free to ask staff any questions regarding your child's care and stay in PICU. Some of the staff you may meet when visiting PICU are:

- **Registered nurses and Clinical Nurse Specialists** who care for your child on a daily basis
- **PICU liaison nurses** who work with the intensive care and ward staff to optimise the process of admission and discharge to and from PICU
- **Patient services assistants (PSAs) and ward clerks** who assist in the running of PICU
- **Registrars** who are experienced doctors
- **PICU consultants** who are doctors in charge of your child's care
- **Clinical Technology Team** who are responsible for the medical equipment in PICU
- **Medical Director and Nurse Unit Manager (NUM)** who have overall responsibility for the leadership and management of Intensive Care Services
- **Associate Unit Manager (AUM)**, who provides nursing clinical leadership and is in charge of the shift
- Other medical and surgical teams (e.g. cardiologists and oncologists).

## Other staff at The Royal Children's Hospital

Physiotherapist, pharmacists, social workers, play/music therapists, occupational therapists, chaplains, and interpreters are just some of the staff that are also available at RCH to help provide the best care possible for your child.

## Further information

For more information about The Royal Children's Hospital and the services/facilities available, please refer to:

- a booklet available called '**A Really Useful Guide to The Royal Children's Hospital**'
- the Family Resource Centre, located on the first floor, behind the retail pharmacy
- the RCH website: [www.rch.org.au/rchinfo](http://www.rch.org.au/rchinfo)

## Contact PICU

**Telephone:** 9345 5211 – Parents only  
9345 5522 – General enquiries

Information is given over the telephone to parents only. Please nominate someone to distribute information to other family members.

Direct room telephone numbers are only provided to parents, who are welcome to call anytime.

### RCH Paediatric Intensive Care Unit

2<sup>nd</sup> floor, The Royal Children's Hospital  
Flemington Road, Parkville 3052  
Victoria, Australia

[www.rch.org.au/picu](http://www.rch.org.au/picu)

# Welcome to PICU

## A guide to the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)



# Welcome to our Paediatric Intensive Care Unit

PICU at The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) is a busy, dynamic unit. Depending on their condition, children can be referred and admitted from all over Victoria, interstate and also from overseas.

Children are admitted to PICU when they require care and treatment that is not available in the general wards.

Having a seriously ill child can be a very stressful time for families. The intensive care team strives to provide the best care possible for both you and your child.

**If you have any questions please feel free to ask your child's nurse and doctor.**



## Visiting PICU

### Before entering PICU, please remember:

- Wash your hands with the hand gel provided.
- Please do not bring food or hot drinks into the clinical area in PICU as most children are not allowed to eat or drink.
- Mobile phones must be switched off as they can interfere with medical equipment.
- PICU doors are always locked for security and patient privacy reasons – please use the intercom.

### Parents

- Parents are welcome to visit any time except during ward rounds which occur in the mornings. This is to ensure confidentiality and privacy for all children staying in PICU. Your child's nurse and the PICU ward clerk will advise you when ward rounds are about to commence.
- We encourage you to help with your child's care – your child's nurse can assist you to become involved.
- Please discuss the use of any complementary medicine your child may be using.
- Feel free to bring a favourite toy and take photos or videos of your child when visiting.

### Other visitors

- Other visitors may only visit a patient with the parents' permission.
- Please restrict visitors to two people at the bedside at any one time.
- After 8.00pm we would request only parents visit to allow children to rest.

## Facilities available

### Parents Lounge

The Parents Lounge (generously sponsored by Yarra Trams) is a place for parents and families to relax. It is located on the right as you enter PICU. Please help to keep it clean. Tea / coffee making facilities, parent laundry facilities, a microwave, fridge, lockers and toilets are available.

### Expressing Room

Breast pumps are available in the Expressing Room, which is located next to the Parents Lounge. Breast milk should be taken to the Formula Room on the ground floor for storage.

Breastfeeding mothers can receive free meals at the RCH cafeteria. Please see PICU staff for information.

### Postnatal Mothers Unit

Medical or nursing care is available for new mothers in the Postnatal Mothers Unit. A midwife is available on weekdays to provide routine postnatal care.

### Accommodation

PICU has two emergency parent accommodation rooms (dependant on availability) for stays of one night only. Your child's nurse, social worker or the PICU ward clerk can assist you with accommodation.

### Car parking

A car park concession (discount) card can be issued by the PICU ward clerk three days after your child's admission.

### Other facilities at RCH

An enquiries desk, cafeteria, McDonald's restaurant, an ATM, pharmacy and gift shop are all located on the ground floor. The 'Starlight Express Room' offers entertainment for siblings aged 5+, and there is a crèche for younger siblings.