The Amanda Jones Paediatric Intensive Care Unit

Information for parents
The Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) can be found on level four of Sydney Wing, Royal Brompton Hospital. Our reception staff can direct you to the lifts. When you leave the lift, please follow the signs to the PICU. To gain entry to the PICU please press the security buzzer outside the doors to let staff know that you have arrived.

**Who will be looking after your child?**

Usually, our nurses will look after your child on a one-to-one basis. As your child’s health improves, our nurses may care for another child as well.

Doctors share the care of children in the PICU. Between them they ensure that there is 24-hour cover. A consultant specialising in paediatric intensive care (an ‘intensivist’) supervises the doctors. The consultant intensivist will also work with the other consultants involved in your child’s care.

**Ward rounds**

The doctors review all the children on the Unit during their ward rounds each day. As it may be possible to overhear medical conversations which the parents of each child may wish to remain confidential, we may ask parents to leave the Unit during ward rounds. These take place twice a day, usually between 09:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. and from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. The doctors will speak with you following their ward rounds to tell you of your child’s progress and the medical plan for that day. If you wish to talk to the consultant at any time, please ask the nurse looking after your child.
Your child’s needs

Although your child may need support from medical equipment, it is still possible for you to help with some of his/her care if you wish. Parents often like to sit with their children to read or talk to them.

Your child may need a ventilator - this is a machine to help with breathing. This means that a small tube in the nose or mouth goes into the windpipe and is then connected to the ventilator. This will stay in place until your child is able to breathe without help.

There will also be other pieces of equipment which will help us to care for your child and a nurse will be happy to explain what they are all for.

Children sleep for much of the time whilst in the PICU because of the medicines they need to help them settle and to make sure that they do not feel any pain.

Please feel free to bring in any of your child’s favourite toys to the PICU. These can help children to settle on the Unit and to make the surroundings more familiar. Unfortunately we cannot take responsibility for personal possessions and we recommend that any valuable items are left at home.

Visiting

You may visit at any time and we ask that you are present when other visitors arrive to see your child. Please try to limit the number of visitors to a maximum of two at any one time (please check with your nurse if you wish any more to be present).
Your other children are welcome to visit but an adult should supervise them. Anyone who has an infection or thinks they may have an infection, should not visit the Unit. If in doubt, please speak to the nurse looking after your child.

Research
Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Trust is a leading centre for heart and lung disease. This means that we are committed to research and development in these areas to find new ways of treating these illnesses. Although projects looking at new ways of treating children are done in the hospital, your child will not be involved in any research without your permission. You do not have to agree with your child being included in a research study and our care of your child will not be influenced by your decision in any way.

Accommodation
Rooms are available for parents on level six in Sydney Wing and in South Parade, a five minute walk away. Accommodation can be arranged through the accommodation officer who can be contacted on telephone number: 020 7351 8044.

Breast feeding
If your baby is admitted to the Unit, feeding is still important even though he/she may not be able to breast or bottle feed. Your breast milk can be expressed, frozen and stored so that it is ready to be used whenever your baby needs it. An electric pump is also available if you would like to use it.

Midwives
If you need to see a midwife, please ask a member of staff. We will then arrange for one of the community midwives from Chelsea and Westminster hospital to visit you.

Religious services
Our chapel on level two (ground floor) Sydney Wing is always open. Religious leaders of different faiths are available for you to talk to. If you would like to see one of them please ask a nurse.

Refreshments
A drinking water fountain is available on the Unit.

There is a coffee shop on level two (ground floor) Sydney Wing, open between 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on weekdays and a dining room which can be found on level one (basement), which is open as follows:

- Breakfast: 7:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- Lunch: 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m.
- Dinner: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

There is also a hospital shop in the main foyer.