

About the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CICU)

The Cardiovascular Intensive Care unit has twenty-four beds dedicated to the management of infants and children with congenital or acquired heart disease. Care is provided by a team of experienced and knowledgeable medical professionals committed to collaborative management.

While most of the patients are admitted following cardiac surgery, our staff cares for patients with medical conditions.

We recognize and acknowledge that as parents, you are the most important people in your child's life and essential members of your child's team here in the unit. We understand that seeing your child in the hospital can be a very difficult and often an overwhelming experience. Our goal is to provide your child and you with highly skilled and personalized care.

Staff members are available 24 hours a day in the CICU to answer any questions you may have regarding parking, housing, meals, internet access, and more. If additional information or resources are needed, the staff will help to find you the appropriate resource. Please do not hesitate to ask questions.

What patients are admitted to the CICU?

The staff cares for all patients requiring continuous monitoring and frequent assessments.

What does the CICU look like?

While the CICU is an area of constant activity, we strive to provide a comforting environment for families going through a stressful time.

All bed spaces provide privacy for the patient and family. The bed space your child occupies in the unit may change from time to time due to patient needs.

Each room contains state-of-the-art technology. The parent area contains a sleep bench that may be used as a bed for one parent, a closet, a small safe for valuables, and a phone for outgoing and incoming calls. When you are not in the room, messages from incoming callers may be left on voicemail for you.

Visiting the CICU

Parents are welcome in the CICU 24 hours a day. We ask that you wear a parent ID badge, which you may obtain at the reception desk in the main lobby. Siblings of any age are also welcome. All siblings under the age of 12 must check in at the main lobby information desk to be screened for illness and obtain a dinosaur sticker prior to entering the unit. Sibling sleep accommodations are not available in the hospital. The resource specialist is available to assist families who may require additional accommodations.

To ensure the privacy of all our patients, we ask that you stop at the CICU front desk each time you visit. The receptionist will check your parent ID badge and let your child's nurse know you are here. The unit is very large. Signs are posted

to help you. We are happy to escort you to your child's bed space.

Since this is an intensive care unit, visitors may be limited. We ask that all visitors be accompanied by a parent.

As a unit and an institution, we are committed to maintaining patient safety, including prevention of infection. All staff, parents, and visitors are requested to practice hand hygiene. Please use the Purell® at each bedside.

Families and guests are welcome to use the Family Waiting Room. In this room you will find a television, telephones (617-355-6001, 617-355-6379, or 617-355-7867), and kitchenette for your use. There are also two consult rooms designated for staff/family meetings.

Cell phones may not be used in the CICU.

Cell phones may interfere with some of our sophisticated monitoring in the CICU.

We encourage you to bring in stuffed animals, blankets, music boxes, or pictures for your child. Please label all personal property with your child's name to prevent items from being misplaced. Flowers are not permitted in patient rooms.

Frequently asked questions

How can I find out how my child is doing? We are happy to provide you with information regarding your child's condition any time, 24 hours a day. We encourage you to ask questions at any time. You may find it helpful to keep a notebook to write down information you receive and keep a list of questions that come up. We are here to help you and your child, and we will answer all your questions honestly and to the best of our ability.

How can I contact the CICU while I am away? If you are away from the hospital, you can contact the front desk (617-355-8087) to be connected with your child's nurse.

Who will be given information about my child? To protect your child's privacy, we will only provide information to parents, guardians, and primary care providers. We ask that other family members and friends contact you for information about your child.

What will my child's routine be while in the CICU? Because routines differ by the age and diagnosis of each child, you may discuss the daily plan for your child with your child's nurse and physician. Your nurse will explain tests and procedures and provide frequent updates on your child's condition. Many diagnostic tests are performed at the bedside.

Lactation Support

A private room with a breast pump is available for breast feeding mothers. Lactation consultants are available to provide information and assistance with breastfeeding and/or pumping. Please ask your child's nurse to call them for you if needed. The hospital provides meal trays for breastfeeding mothers. These may be ordered through your child's nurse.

Transfer from the CICU

Once your child has recovered and is in a stable condition, you will be transferred to the Cardiology Unit on the 8th floor, adjacent to the CICU.



Welcome to

Children's Hospital, Boston
Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit



Children's Hospital Boston
The Hospital for Children

300 Longwood Ave
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 355-6000
CICU: (617) 355-8087
www.childrenshospital.org