

# Paediatric Critical Care

Welcome to Ward 3A Paediatric Critical Care (PCC) at Perth Children's Hospital (PCH) located on Level 3. Our ward is a multipurpose intensive care/high dependency unit designed especially for infants, children and adolescents. In addition to delivering expert care of your child we provide specialist training, education and research for our staff to ensure we maintain the highest possible standards.



## Visiting PCC

### On Arrival

- Use the intercom at the front entrance to the ward. Wait for a verbal response from one of our staff, and please do not follow other families/staff through open doors. Doors are always locked to ensure patient privacy and security. You may be asked to wait in PCC reception for a short time while your child is admitted and stabilised. Staff will keep you informed while you wait if there are delays in this process.
- Switch your mobile phone off as it may interfere with some medical equipment.
- Please apply hand gel provided at the entrance to patient rooms.

### Parents and guardians

- Parents/guardians are welcome and encouraged to be with their child as much as possible. During selected procedures parents/guardians may be asked to step outside the ward to allow the team space to work.



- Very unwell children need lots of rest and sleep. As PCH encourages you to be involved in your child's recovery, your child's nurse can advise you when and how you can help with their care.
- Feel free to bring a favourite toy or comfort object but please ensure it is clean and clearly marked with your child's name.
- Please discuss the use of any complementary medicine your child may be taking or you may wish them to have with medical staff.

## Other visitors

- Other visitors may visit a patient only with the parents'/guardian's permission.
- Visitors with colds or other infections are encouraged not to visit, as this may be harmful to your child or others in the unit.
- Please restrict visitors to two people at the bedside at any one time.
- After 7.30pm we request only parents/guardians visit to allow children to rest.

## Photography

You are welcome to photograph your child with a digital camera (not a mobile phone) but please do not capture images or audio of any PCH staff including nurses and doctors or other children and their family members.



## Ward rounds and procedures

You are encouraged to participate in medical rounds as they are taking place. This occurs in the morning around 8 to 9am and in the evening 6.30 to 7pm. Occasionally all parents and visitors may be asked to leave the unit for a short time to allow a procedure to take place.

## Consent

If your child requires surgery, a CT or MRI scan or blood products you will be asked to consent for this. For more information on blood products please ask the nurse caring for your child. You may also be asked if you are willing to participate in research studies.

## Facilities

### Family lounge

The family lounge is located outside of the unit opposite the green lifts on Level 3. There are coffee and tea making facilities, a television for your use and a seating area for you to wait or take a break with your visitors and extended family. Mobile phone use is permitted here. This is a space shared with the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

### Parent respite

Parent respite areas are available within the unit. These areas are for PCC parents and their children only and at times access to these the areas may be restricted while family meetings occur. Children cannot be left unaccompanied in these areas. Mobile phone use is not permitted here.

### Food

Food can be kept in the parent respite area fridge. Please label all food with name and date otherwise it will be discarded. Take care of hot foods and drinks when around children and be considerate if your child is fasting for a procedure and eat in the parent respite area. Please read the **Bringing Food from Home Patient Information Sheet** available on admission.

### Breast feeding mothers

If you are breastfeeding and your baby is too ill to feed, we encourage you to express so we can give your baby your breastmilk by other means. You can express in your child's room with a portable breast pump. A disposable breast shield that can be used for 24 hours then discarded will be provided. PCC can be a very warm environment, and it is important for breastfeeding mothers to maintain an adequate water intake. Please discuss with your child's nurse any breast feeding equipment or assistance required.

### Accommodation

A parent may be able to stay at the bedside but there are other accommodation options which may be available. Please speak to your nurse or social worker for further information.

### Car parking

Please speak with your nurse if you require information about parking on QEII site.

## PCC staff

The care of your child is managed by a team of healthcare professionals who will keep you updated on your child's progress. Some of the staff you will meet include:

- **Registered nurses:** provide care for your child and family on a daily basis
- **Intensive care consultants:** trained specialist intensive care doctors in charge of your child's care.
- **The shift coordinator:** provide clinical leadership and is in charge of staff and physical resources for the shift.
- **Registrars:** experienced doctors who work with the consultants
- **Administration assistants, ward clerks and Patient Care Assistants (PCAs):** assist in the daily running of the ward.
- **Medical technology:** responsible for care and maintenance of medical equipment in PCC.
- **PCC Nursing Education team:** provide specialist education and expertise for the staff.
- The PCC **Medical Director** and **Clinical Nurse Manager:** have overall responsibility for the leadership and management of intensive care services.

## Other staff

Physiotherapists, social workers, pharmacists, occupational therapists, chaplains and interpreters are just some of the staff available at PCH to help provide the best care possible.

## Contacting PCC

General enquires telephone should be directed to the PCH switchboard on 6456 2222.

Information is given over the phone to parents/guardians only. Please nominate someone to distribute information to other family members. Use of mobile phones is restricted within the PCC and phones must be switched to off prior to entering the unit.



Government of **Western Australia**  
Child and Adolescent Health Service



**This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.**

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