



Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Standard Intents

PICU.1 Qualified physician is responsible for managing the pediatric intensive care unit.

PICU.1.1 The pediatric intensive care unit is directed by a physician qualified in pediatric critical care by education, training and, experience.

PICU.1.2 The unit head takes the overall responsibility for the operation of the unit.

Standard Intent:

Only qualified physician permitted by licensure, applicable laws and regulations, or certification manages the pediatric intensive care unit.

PICU.2 The pediatric intensive care unit nurse manager is a qualified registered nurse.

PICU.2.1 The nurse manager is a registered nurse qualified by education, training, and experience in pediatric critical care.

PICU.2.2 The nurse manager develops and collaborates with other departments as needed for developing policies and procedures for the pediatric intensive care unit (e.g., policies and practices related to infection control).

Standard Intent:

Only qualified Nurse permitted by licensure, applicable laws and regulations, or certification manages the pediatric intensive care unit.

PICU.3 Medical and nursing staff working in the pediatric intensive care unit have appropriate cardiac life support training.

PICU.3.1 Medical staff working in pediatric intensive care unit are certified in pediatric advanced life support (PALS).

PICU.3.2 Nursing staff working in pediatric intensive care unit are certified in pediatric advanced life support (PALS).

Standard Intent:

Medical and nursing staff working in the PICU must be certified in PALS.

PICU.4 The pediatric intensive care unit is covered by qualified physicians.

PICU.4.1 The pediatric intensive care unit is covered twenty four hours a day, seven days a week by qualified pediatric intensive care physicians.

Standard Intent:

Only qualified pediatric intensive care physicians permitted by licensure, applicable laws and regulations, or certification can work in the pediatric intensive care unit.

PICU.5 The pediatric intensive care unit has admission and discharge criteria.

PICU.5.1 The pediatric intensive care unit identifies its own population based on age, weight, and diagnosis related groups.

PICU.5.2 The admission and discharge criteria are defined in writing.



PICU.5.3 The criteria for admission are based on physiological parameters.

PICU.5.4 The criteria are developed collaboratively between relevant staff.

PICU.5.5 In an open pediatric intensive care unit, the Most Responsible Physician (MRP) is the admitting consultant whereas in a closed pediatric intensive care unit setting, the MRP is a member of the medical staff in the PICU.

Standard Intent:

PICU services must establish an admission and discharge criteria for determining those patients who require the level of care provided in such unit. These criteria will guide the staff when to admit and discharge patients from pediatric intensive care unit. To ensure consistency, the criteria should be physiologic based and utilize prioritization and diagnostic and/or objective parameters.

PICU.6 The pediatric intensive care unit has an effective handover process.

PICU.6.1 There is a documented evidence of handover between physicians at change of shift.

PICU.6.2 There is a documented evidence of handover between nurses at change of shift.

PICU.6.3 There is a documented evidence of handover between pediatric intensive care nurse and the unit/ward nurse at the time of transfer to a lower acuity of care.

Standard Intent:

For unifying the patient care within the pediatric intensive care unit and in relation to other (lower acuity of care) units, the hospital needs to design a handover policy and to implement processes for continuity and coordination of care among physicians, nurses, and other health care practitioners.

PICU.7 Patient care in pediatric intensive care unit is provided using a multidisciplinary approach.

PICU.7.1 The multidisciplinary team includes both Pediatric ICU as well as non-ICU members. This includes but is not limited to: Pediatric ICU physician, Pediatric ICU nurse, clinical pharmacist, respiratory therapist, dietitian, social worker, physiotherapist, and the consultant of the primary service under which the patient was first admitted.

PICU.7.2 Medically necessary services are readily available and accessible at all times.

PICU.7.3 Care is provided equally to all Pediatric ICU patients whether inside the unit or those in other areas of the hospital (e.g., ventilated patients in the emergency department).

PICU.7.4 Care is coordinated amongst the multidisciplinary team members and documented in the patient's medical record.
