

Stead Family Children's Hospital

Moving from the PICU or PCICU to a Pediatric Acute Care Unit

This guide will help you to feel ready for the next step in your child's recovery.

Soon, your child will move from the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) or Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (PCICU) to a pediatric acute care unit. In the new unit, just like in the PICU or PCICU, you are a member of your child's care team. Please ask questions and share any concerns.

Pediatric acute care units

Your child will move to one of our pediatric acute care units on level 9, 10, or 11 of the Stead Family Children's Hospital. All 4 public elevators will take you there.

Treatment and care

Your child's treatment and care may change in the pediatric acute care unit. In the PICU or PCICU, treatments may focus on breathing. On the new unit, the focus may shift to your child's appetite or being able to walk. Do not be alarmed by this. As your child's health gets better, their needs change.

Getting ready to go home

Before your child goes home, the nurses will help you feel ready for discharge by:

- Telling you what kind of care your child will need at home.
- Teaching you how to give that care.

Please ask questions. We want you to feel confident about caring for your child at home. Please take part in your child's care each day. The best way to learn something is to practice. Need help? Just ask the nurse. When we all work together as a team, your child gets the best care.

Getting ready to move

Your child is moving to a pediatric acute care unit because they are getting better. It is a good step forward in your child's recovery. Your PICU or PCICU nurse and nurse on the new care unit will help you. We want your move to be as smooth as possible.

- **Emotional needs:** Many parents have mixed feelings when their child leaves the PICU or PCICU. This is normal. You have gotten to know the staff and have become comfortable with the type of care your child has been getting.
- **When to make the move:** Each child is different. The right time to move is different too. Your child's doctor or nurse will talk with you before you move. When your child is ready, we will make all the arrangements. Your child will move to the unit that best matches their needs.
- **Your child's new room:** The pediatric acute care units have all single rooms. The layout of the new unit will be similar to the PICU and PCICU.

Pediatric acute care unit

What is the same? What is different?

PICU/PCICU	Pediatric Acute Care Unit
Each nurse may care for 1 or 2 patients.	Each nurse may care for 3 or 4 patients.
Often, your child's nurse is right outside the room.	Your child's nurse may also be caring for a patient in a different area of the unit. Need help? Push the call light anytime.
Nurses do all the vital signs and assessments on your child every 1 to 2 hours and provide all nursing care.	Vital signs and assessments are done less often. This is because your child's health is better. Patient care technicians and nurses work together to care for your child. They will be checked every hour or more as needed.
Rounds are done at your child's bedside. A doctor is always available on the unit.	Some rounding will be done at your child's bedside. Some rounding will take place in a conference room. A doctor will see your child each day. A doctor is always available on the unit.
Almost all children are on monitors.	Your child may or may not be on monitors. If your child is on monitors, nurses will be able to watch the monitors from a central location outside your child's room.