Pediatric Critical Care

The new University of Chicago Comer Children’s Hospital is a state-of-the-art medical center with a kid-friendly, family focus. Our teams of pediatric experts develop individualized treatment plans for each child. They also successfully treat complex conditions.

In addition to advanced technology, our hospital offers private rooms and in-room sleeping accommodations for parents, as well as group play areas for kids. Our pediatric care is ranked among the best in the country by U.S. News & World Report.

WHY CHOOSE US FOR PEDIATRIC CRITICAL CARE?
Chicago Comer Children’s Hospital is considered a national leader in pediatric critical care. Our staff members have received extensive training in pediatric intensive care medicine. In fact, many of our physicians are “triple-boarded,” meaning they are board-certified in three different pediatric subspecialties. This depth of expertise means that your child receives care from doctors who understand the needs of critically ill children and have a thorough understanding of your child’s disease and the best treatment.

The heart of pediatric critical care is the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). The PICU, located on the third and fourth floors of Chicago Comer Children’s Hospital, has more than twice the capacity of our former PICU. The rooms on this 30-bed unit are private, and parents are welcome to stay overnight with their child. Ten of these critical care beds are dedicated to our unique Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit — staffed with specialists who are highly skilled in caring for children with serious heart disease.

Mortality rates in the PICU are significantly lower than the national average. While the mortality rate in most PICUs is between 4 and 7 percent, our mortality rate is between 2 and 3 percent.

PEDIATRIC CRITICAL CARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF MEDICINE
The PICU staff is experienced in treating the most life-threatening illnesses in children. Each day, our critical care team treats children with problems such as:

- Respiratory failure due to asthma, bronchiolitis, or acute hypoxic respiratory failure
- Intractable seizures
- Kidney failure

www.uchicagokidshospital.org
For an appointment, call 1-888-UCH-0200
• Heart disease
• Severe liver dysfunction
• Poisoning
• Trauma

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES AND SERVICES
In addition to our experienced staff and advanced facilities, we have the technology to help support critically ill children. Some of the high-tech services we provide include:

• High frequency oscillatory ventilation that causes less trauma than conventional ventilation and can speed healing of a patient’s lung injury
• Open lung/low tidal volume ventilation for respiratory failure and asthma
• Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), a type of long-term heart-lung bypass
• Nitric oxide for respiratory failure
• Helium-oxygen mixtures for acute asthma patients
• Complete dialysis services for children with kidney disorders

PICU doctors also play a vital role in supporting children who require bone marrow transplantation, neurosurgery, cardiac surgery, chemotherapy, and other procedures.

EXPERTISE WITH PAIN MANAGEMENT IN CHILDREN
Pain can be one of the most stressful parts of your child’s illness. Our team offers a variety of methods to comfort your child and ease his or her distress. The director of the PICU is a physician with special expertise in pediatric pain management. Chicago Comer Children’s Hospital is the first pediatric hospital in Chicago — and among the first in the country to have a pediatric palliative care program within its walls. A physician and nurse practitioner work closely with the family and the primary care team on quality-of-life decision-making and pain and symptom management.

CONTACT US
To learn more about pediatric critical care services at Chicago Comer Children’s Hospital, please call 1-888-UCH-0200 or (773) 702-1000, or visit our Web site at www.uchicagokidshospital.org/critical-care/.