

# Welcome to the Cardiac Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (cPICU)

## Cardiac PICU

Information for Parents & Carers

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## Introduction

Welcome to the Cardiac Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (cPICU) at Leicester Royal Infirmary. We understand that you are very worried and overwhelmed by your child being in a paediatric intensive care unit. The aim of this leaflet is to try and answer a few questions you may have and let you know what facilities are available.

Please remember that we are here to help you and your child. Feel free to ask questions about anything you don't understand.

## What is paediatric intensive care?

Children need intensive care for many different reasons; your child may need close monitoring, observation and additional care that can only be provided in an intensive care unit. Some admissions will be planned following an operation and some will be unexpected following an emergency.

The Cardiac Paediatric Intensive Care Unit is for children with a heart problem who need intensive care. We also provide ECMO and dialysis treatment for children with reversible lung and kidney problems. ECMO is a form of treatment to aid recovery from reversible respiratory and cardiovascular problems.

cPICU is a busy unit and is different to other wards. You might see lots of machines and equipment around the bed; this is because of the extra care your child needs.

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**Health information and support is available at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)  
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit [www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk) for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals  
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact [InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)

## **What happens when my child arrives on cPICU?**

You will be asked to wait in the parent's lounge or our quiet room whilst we settle your child in.

When children are first admitted from either the ward or from theatre there are certain procedures or tasks that need to be carried out as soon as they arrive. We fully appreciate that this is an anxious time for you but we request that you are patient when waiting to see your child. When you are able to come into the unit the nurse looking after your child will explain what is happening and answer any questions you may have.

## **Who will be looking after my child?**

Medical staff specialising in intensive care treatment will be caring for your child. This includes doctors, nurses, surgeons, cardiologists, physiotherapists, ECMO specialists, play specialists and cardiac liaison nurses.

The team all work very closely with each other to provide the best care for your child. There are doctors on cPICU at all times. An intensive care consultant is always on duty and fully involved in the care of your child.

Each child has an allocated nurse. Every morning and evening at 7.30 there is a handover where the information about your child is handed over to the next nurse starting their shift. We ask that you respect this time and that any interruptions are kept to a minimum.

## **Ward round**

The main ward round on cPICU starts between 8.30am and 9.30am. This is when the medical staff meet and review your child's progress and discuss the treatment plan for the day.

## **Being considerate to other patients**

Please keep mobiles on silent and we ask that you answer/ make calls off the main unit away from your child's bedside.

You can video chat/ FaceTime with relatives to update family members on your child's condition, however we ask you to be considerate to other patients. Please discuss with your nurse about drawing the curtains around your child during this time so privacy can be maintained.

## **Visiting**

Parents/ carers are allowed to visit their child 24 hours a day.

We have set visiting times for friends and relatives between 10am and 6pm, however there may be visiting restrictions in place at certain times (e.g. during a pandemic) so please check with ward staff. Only 2 visitors are allowed at a bed space at one time.

Bedtime is at 11pm to maintain a day/ night routine for patients.

Whilst in hospital, we need to keep the risk of infection to a minimum. Please make sure you wash your hands and use hand sanitiser before and after visiting and being in contact with your child. Surgical facemasks provided should also be worn. Please leave outdoor coats on the hangers provided.

To prevent cross infection do not enter other cubicles or bed spaces. If you or any visitors are feeling unwell please check with staff before visiting.

## Car parking

There are a number of car parks at Leicester Royal Infirmary. Saver tickets are available at reduced prices for patients/ prime carers from the Car Park Office. If your child has been an inpatient for 6 weeks, car parking is free for prime carers (the Car Park Office will check information against the patient database).

The Car Park Office is on the ground floor, Windsor Building and is well signposted (open 24 hours, 7 days a week).

Visit Leicester's Hospitals website for further information: [www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/patients/getting-to-hospital/leicester-royal-infirmary/car-travel-and-parking/](http://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/patients/getting-to-hospital/leicester-royal-infirmary/car-travel-and-parking/)

## Accommodation and facilities

Accommodation is available nearby so you can be close to your child. All rooms have access to showering facilities, and access to a fridge, freezer, cooker and washing machine. Please speak with a member of staff who will arrange this for you.

We ask that you provide your own food and milk for yourself and your visitors. Breastfeeding mothers are entitled to free meals so please speak to a member of staff. Tea and coffee is kindly donated by a local charity called Heart Link.

Please note there is limited parking available at the Walnut Street car park near the accommodation, which is managed privately by a separate parking office.

**Accommodation cannot be booked beforehand; we will organise it for you on your day of admission.**

We have a quiet room on cPICU that we use to have talks with parents outside the unit when some privacy is needed. It is not a communal room and should be not be used as a seating area.

## Contact details

Cardiac Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (cPICU), Leicester Royal Infirmary: 0116 258 3288

If you have any questions, write them down here to remind you what to ask when you speak to your child's nurse/ doctor/ consultant:

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على هذه المعلومات بلغةٍ أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email [equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)



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Leicester's Hospitals is a research active trust so you may find research happening on your ward or in your clinic. To find out about the benefits of research and become involved yourself, speak to your clinician or nurse, call 0116 258 8351 or visit [www.leicestersresearch.nhs.uk/patient-and-public-involvement](http://www.leicestersresearch.nhs.uk/patient-and-public-involvement)