

Paediatric Critical Care – John Radcliffe Hospital

Welcome to Paediatric Critical Care!

Please contact us as soon as possible.

Call 01826 221267 or 01865 220632 at any time.

Information about the placement

- The Paediatric Critical Care Unit (PCC) is an 18 bedded unit comprising Paediatric Intensive Care and Paediatric High Dependency. We are on Level 1 of the main hospital – by the Emergency Department
- We also have a Paediatric Critical Care Outreach Service (PCCOS). This service provides support to nursing /medical staff when caring for children after a stay on Paediatric Critical Care; this could be within the Children’s hospital at the John Radcliffe or the child’s local hospital.
- PCC is the Lead Centre for the region and admit children from 0 - 16 years, with specialties including: cardiology, neurology, neurosurgery, trauma, orthopaedic surgery, respiratory, ENT and general surgery. We are also able to provide Nitric Oxide Therapy, High Frequency Oscillation Ventilation, and Peritoneal Dialysis, for which in-service training is provided.
- The Paediatric Intensive patients are nursed on a 1 nurse to 1 patient ratio. Paediatric High Dependency patients are nursed on a ratio of 1 nurse to 2 patients.
- We also offer a retrieval service, to facilitate the transfer of critically ill children from referring hospitals back to Oxford. The transport team consists of qualified medical and nursing staff (following British Paediatric Intensive Care Society guidelines) and offers the opportunity for other members of the nursing team to gain experience by accompanying them if appropriate. A new alliance has been formed to carry out retrievals over the weekend and at night - SORT (Southampton Oxford Retrieval Team) now transfer patients from referring hospitals from Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Hampshire.

Key learning opportunities during the placement

- Care of invasive and non-invasive ventilated patients.
- Long term tracheostomy ventilated patients.
- Advanced renal and respiratory therapies.
- Trauma, neurosurgical, spinal, craniofacial surgical patients.
- Opportunities to spend time with Outreach.
- Exposure to controlled emergency situations.

Suggested spoke placements

- Theatre’s (opportunities to observe some procedures)
- Outreach
- Physio
- SORT retrievals/transfers (if appropriate)
- Dietician

Typical shift patterns

- PCC operates 24/7
- Day shifts 07:30-20:00
- Night Shifts 19:30-08:00
- Outreach is covered every day & Friday- Monday Nights

Interdisciplinary learning

- Children's Nursing
- Paramedic Students
- Trainee Nurse Associate
- Medical Students

Local education programmes

- PCC learning booklets/information can be accessed through Microsoft teams whilst on the unit.
- We provide student booklets to help guide your learning and development throughout your placement.

Useful reading for the placement

- What is a blood gas and what can it show you?
- Basic understanding of the respiratory system.
- Basic understanding of the cardiac system.
- Basic anatomy of the Brain.