Ways to Participate in Your Child’s Care

Welcome to the PICU. You are an important part of your child’s care and we consider you our partner in this process. Here are a few ways that you can participate in your child’s care while in the PICU.

- **Let us know your availability** and the best mode of communication on your room’s white board (Name, best number to call, and your room number at the Ronald McDonald House, if you are staying there).

- **Stay involved** by actively communicating with the unit, even if you are unable to be physically present at the hospital. To contact your bedside nurse from outside of the hospital, call the PICU front desk at (919) 966-5491. The toll free number is 1-800-332-4555.

- **Help us** keep you informed. You should receive an update each day from your bedside nurse and a PICU physician. If you haven’t received an update by the end of the day, just let your bedside nurse know. A daily update will cover:
  - Today’s goals and plan
  - Any tests or lab results
  - Current condition
  - Concerns and questions

- **Participate in morning rounds.** Each morning, the PICU clinical team goes around the unit to evaluate each child’s current status and establish the plan of care for the day. You are invited to participate and ask questions when the team is rounding on your child.

- **Encourage your child** to participate in morning rounds if they are old enough and well enough to do so. Their voice is important.

- **Keep a journal** of your thoughts, questions, and concerns related to your child’s care. This can help you remember what to talk to the care team about, help you process your emotions and cope, and be helpful in recording important information about your PICU journey.

- **Ask questions.** All questions are important. If you have a concern or need clarity, let someone else on your child’s team know. We are here to help.