

## We need PICU Nurses At Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin OLCHC

Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin, Dublin is a world-class multispecialty hospital. We are currently looking to recruit competent and compassionate paediatric intensive care nurses. If you are interested in a challenge and being part of an exciting innovative team then you should consider this paediatric intensive care unit. This unit offers opportunities for newly qualified and experienced nurses.

Our Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) is a 23 bed unit, split over 2 floors. With 8 beds on Floor 2 and 15 on floor 1. We care for children (up to 16 years old) from all specialties including cardiac surgery, ENT, burns, trauma, sepsis, shock and oncology. The unit accepts over 1000 admissions per year and is one of the largest PICUs in Europe.

It is a modern unit that is bright and child friendly. It has a mixture of open plan accommodation and cubicles for isolation. We provide all forms of therapy including haemofiltration, Nitric Oxide, High Frequency Oscillation and cardiac ECMO. This enables many exciting learning and personal development opportunities. We also offer:

- The opportunity for accredited continuing education
- Broad range of education programmes
- Development in advanced therapies such as CRRT, ECLS
- Paper free patient health care record
- 12 hour shifts pattern
- Flexible rostering
- Convenient access to public transport
- Short term nurses accommodation

For further information please contact:

Lorraine O'Reilly  
Clinical Nurse Manager III (PICU)  
+353-1-4096000 bleep 8744  
[lorraine.oreilly@olchc.ie](mailto:lorraine.oreilly@olchc.ie)

Tracey Wall  
Divisional Nurse Manager  
+353-1-4096000 bleep 8463  
[tracey.wall@olchc.ie](mailto:tracey.wall@olchc.ie)

2014

Read on to find out more about the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at OLCHC

# Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin

## Paediatric Intensive Care Unit

Our Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) is a 23 bed unit, across two sites. There is 8 beds on one site and 15 on the other. We care for children (up to 16 years old) from all specialties including cardiac surgery, ENT, burns, trauma, sepsis, shock and oncology. The unit accepts over 1000 admissions per year and is one of the largest PICUs in Europe.

Our unit is modern and provides all forms of therapy including haemofiltration, Nitric Oxide, High Frequency Oscillation and cardiac ECMO providing care for level 4 intensive care children. The units are bright and child friendly and a mixture of open plan with cubicles for isolation.

### **The Team on PICU**

There are over 160 nurses on the PICU including a nurse manager, a clinical education team which includes co-ordinators of the PICU Foundation Programme and the Graduate Diploma in Intensive Care and an audit/research nurse. Other members of the team include consultant intensivists, specialist physiotherapists, a specialist dietician, a PICU pharmacist, data managers, social workers, chaplains, clerical and household staff and a team of rotational training doctors in PICU and anaesthesia. We also provide placements for nursing students, medical students and other health care students.

### **Nursing on PICU**

The nurse to patient ratio on PICU is mainly 1:1, but can be 2:1 in very ill children. Our nursing philosophy in PICU is one strongly centred on providing family-centred care at all times, and delivering the highest possible level of care to our patients and their families. We believe that an environment which is supportive and encourages education and research is essential in order to support professional and personal growth and provide these children with best care underpinned by evidence. We recognise that the speed of a child's recovery is dependant on the presence of his/her family and so we welcome parents to visit and participate in the child's care. We also strive to keep parents continually informed about their child's condition, so building a supportive relationship of trust, honesty and respect, while maintaining confidentiality and dignity.

We also value each other and encourage nurses to speak freely, acting as the child's advocate when his or her parents are not able to do so, so promoting and safeguarding the well being of our patients.

PICU can be a very stressful environment to work in. We are a diverse team who work incredibly hard for the children and families in our care. We aim to minimise stress through reflective practice, psychosocial meetings and regular social events, as well as close co-operation and teamwork.

## **Nursing Developments and Activities in PICU**

There are many special interest groups and teams within the PICU which the nurses can join including risk management, analgesia and sedation, end of life, clinical information system updates and breastfeeding. In addition to this there are other specialist nursing teams such as ECMO and haemofiltration.

Many of the nurses are members of the Paediatric Intensive Care Society (PICS) and the European Society of Paediatric and Neonatal Intensive care (ESPNIC) and attend their annual meetings.

### **Current developments in PICU include:**

The development of nurse-led weaning and extubation

The development of a team of ECMO nurse specialists

Nursing research projects within PICU

The implementation of evidence-based clinical guidelines for procedures and practice

### **Preceptorship Programme**

A formal orientation program is compulsory for all nurses new to PICU. Nurses who commence with a PICU background will have an orientation program specifically developed to suit their needs. There is a structured program for all based on a critical care competency book and formal assessments as part of it, and nurses must pass this course to work in the PICU.

### **Access to education**

All new nurses will undergo a six-week PICU orientation divided into two weeks theory and a four-week supernumerary period working with a preceptor

We encourage staff development and there is access to many educational programs including:

- Preceptorship in practice
- Basic and Advanced Ventilation Study days
- PICU Foundation Programme
- Graduate Diploma Critical Care Nursing (Children)
- CRRT training programme
- The ECLS training programme
- Paediatric Life Support (PLS) and APLS courses

There are various in-house study days on both clinical topics (eg cardiac intensive care, pain, IV Study days) and others including clinical leadership, management of the acutely ill child and bereavement.

**2014**