



TRANSFER CRITERIA – DIRECT TRANSFER TO PICU

Rather than referring your patient to MeritCare Children's Hospital's pediatric unit, you can save precious time by referring directly to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU).

The following criteria are for direct transfer from community hospitals to the PICU. If your patient meets any of these criteria, please call (800) 437-4010 and ask for the pediatric intensivist on call.

Cardiac

- Child with a cardiac arrhythmia
- Child experiencing shock (any kind)
- Child needing acute digitization
- Child needing continuous vasoactive drug infusion
- Child needing continuous antiarrhythmic infusion
- Child needing cardioversion

Surgical

- Child has or likely needs a chest tube
- Child recently underwent thoracic or cardiac surgery
- Child likely needs a tracheotomy

Monitoring

- Child likely needs CVP monitoring or intraarterial BP monitoring

Therapeutic

- Child needing K⁺ infusion with > 60 meq/ml
- Child needing > 20 ml/kg blood products < 24 hours

Neurologic

- Child has a Glasgow Coma Scale score < 14 or PRISM score > 4
- Child in a coma
- Child experiencing altered sensorium
- Child likely needs a new or revised V-P shunt
- Child needs observation for V-P shunt malfunction
- Child experiencing uncontrolled seizures/status epilepticus
- Child experiencing increased intracranial pressure and needs ICP monitoring

Metabolic

- Child likely needs hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis
- Child with a K⁺ ≤ 2.5 or ≥ 6.0
- Child with a Ca > 12.0 or < 7.0
- Bicarbonate less than 5

Respiratory

- Child with a P_aO₂ < 70 P_aCO₂ ≥ 60
- Child who is intubated
- Child needing continuous albuterol or heliox inhalation
- Child requiring F_iO₂ > 50%
- Child with severe airway obstruction/severe respiratory distress
- Child using a home ventilator