

## Helping us to help you

Before transfer to the ward, please make sure to address any concerns that you have with your child's nurse/PICU team.

- Ask your child's nurse anything you are not certain of.
- If equipment or dressings need to be arranged, your nurse will arrange this with the ward.
- Any follow up or outpatients appointment (OPD) will be arranged for your child by the ward.
- A gentle reminder to the nurse to transfer breast milk / formula feeds / belongings when being discharged to the ward.

## About your child's medications

If your child brought in their own medication, please remind the nurse to hand them over to the ward.

If you have any concerns or questions following your child's discharge from PICU, please contact the unit where your child was a patient and speak with the nurse in charge.



**Remember:** Please don't hesitate to ask your nurse if you are unsure about anything about your child's care.

### Additional instructions


Visit Our Website: [www.olchc.ie](http://www.olchc.ie) for more information



Developed by Mong Hoi Tan (Clinical Audit/Research Nurse, PICU) & team. Adapted from St Peter's & CHI Discharge PIL

Date issued: 2022  
Date of review: 2025

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## Information for Parents & Caregivers

### YOUR CHILD'S DISCHARGE FROM PICU



**Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin**

**D12 N512, Ireland**

Phone: +353 (0) 1 409 6100

Ward / Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Ward Phone: +353 01 \_\_\_\_\_

## When will my child be discharged?

It might not be possible to provide an exact date, but the nurse looking after your child or medical teams will update you regularly on your child progress. It will be a joint decision by the PICU team and your child's primary consultant/team when your child is medically fit for discharged to the ward. Your child's nurse or PICU team will inform you when your child is ready for discharge.

## The Transfer Process

We will aim to transfer your child when you are present. Occasionally, this might not be possible due to the acuity of PICU. If this happen, we will notify you prior to the transfer.

## Your child is now ready to be transferred from PICU to the ward.

This is a big step for you and your child. This means they no longer need intensive care. However, the prospect of moving to a ward may cause concern for you, as you have built up a rapport with the staff in PICU. The staff on the ward strive to make this transition a smooth one.



## Things on the ward that differ from PICU

### Monitoring

Depending on your child's condition, a high level of nursing/medical care may be needed but they may no longer require the close monitoring support of PICU. The ward nurse will do regular observation checks and liaise with your medical team. If you have any concerns, please ask a member of the ward nursing staff.

### Doctors / Multidisciplinary Teams

Your child's medical/surgical team will visit your child daily and coordinate all the required care as they monitor your child's progress. Doctors are available 24 hours a day within the hospital to ensure ongoing care and review as required. If your child was under the care of multidisciplinary team members in PICU (e.g. physiotherapy, dietetics, etc.), they will transition their care over to the ward's own set of allied health professionals (AHP). The ward AHP will review your child as required.



### Nurses

As your child is in the recovery stage, a nurse will not need to be at your child's bed side at all times. The ward nurse allocated to care for your child will also be allocated to look after other patients. Your nurse may need to leave the ward at times during the shift but there are other nurses on the ward available to help you, so please do not hesitate to ask.

This move to the ward will afford you, as parents, the opportunity to spend more time with your son/daughter and be more involved with your child's care e.g. bathing /feeding etc.

### Visiting

Parents are encouraged to stay and partake in their child's care. One family member can sleep in the ward cubicle with their child at night if this is possible and available. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, and siblings are allowed visit at the discretion of the Clinical Nurse Manager. Visitors are typically limited to one at a time during the day depending on the hospital guideline at the time.

### Discharge Planning

As your child's condition further improves, you will be encouraged to become involved in their plan for discharge. Depending on your child's medical needs, you may require some additional education. This will be assessed prior to discharge home from the ward.