

Visitors to Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)

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1. Purpose of policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a safe environment for all Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) patients at Auckland District Health Board (Auckland DHB) and it is not intended to minimise the importance of family based care.

2. Information description

The table below provides details of provisions made for patients' families, caregivers and visitors to PICU:

Item	Description
Parents/ Caregivers	Parents are not seen as visitors and their presence is welcomed and encouraged.
Visiting hours	Twenty-four hours a day. However, as we aim to preserve a night and day atmosphere for the children, night-time visitors should be restricted to parents or caregivers unless the child's condition is critical. Doors are locked between 10pm – 6am, with entry using call bell.
Numbers visiting	Not restricted. However, we expect visitors to be considerate of the needs of others in the unit. We may from time to time ask for a reduction of visitors around the bed to facilitate procedures, the care of the child or of other children in the unit.
Infectious diseases	Any visitor with a current infection should not visit the PICU. If you have concerns related to this please discuss with a member of the PICU staff. Parents may be given a mask to wear if they are unwell.
Siblings	Visiting encouraged. However, siblings need to be supervised to facilitate the care of the child and other children in the unit, visits are encouraged to be brief. Siblings are the responsibility of the adults accompanying them and they must be supervised at all times.
Other children	Visits by unrelated children need to be discussed with a member of staff. Visiting children are the responsibility of the adults accompanying them and they must be supervised at all times.
Other visitors	Family friends and extended family are welcome and encouraged. However, we do not allow visiting at the bedside if the parents are absent without prior consent.
Accommodation	Local family/caregivers accommodation is facilitated through the Social Workers. Inter-regional family/caregivers accommodation is facilitated through Ronald McDonald House (telephone: 303-1365).
Meals	Meals may be arranged for breastfeeding mothers. There is some food available from the family rooms on level 3, and cooking facilities are available at Ronald MacDonal House.
Mobile phones	Mobile phones are allowable at the bedside. However, we do ask that phones are placed on discreet or silent mode and that phone calls are taken away from the bedside.

Item	Description
Behaviour code	We do not accept abusive behaviour, intoxication, drug abuse or offensive language towards staff and retain the right to ask those who break this code to leave the premises. Staff have the right to refuse to be recorded, videoed or photographed if they wish to.
Shoes	Footwear must be worn at all times by all visitors.
Sleeping	Nobody is to sleep at the bedside unless approved by the bedside nurse in specific circumstances such as withdrawal of treatment.

3. Associated documents

- Visiting - Grafton Site
- PICU Family Resource Book

4. Disclaimer

No guideline can cover all variations required for specific circumstances. It is the responsibility of the health care practitioners using this Auckland DHB guideline to adapt it for safe use within their own institution, recognise the need for specialist help, and call for it without delay, when an individual patient falls outside of the boundaries of this guideline.

5. Corrections and amendments

The next scheduled review of this document is as per the document classification table (page 1). However, if the reader notices any errors or believes that the document should be reviewed **before** the scheduled date, they should contact the owner or [Document Control](#) without delay.