

As the field of pediatric critical care has developed, physicians and nurses are saving more children with complex health care needs. In the new Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, more than half of the beds are devoted to infants and children who need the highest levels of care. Satellite pharmacies located in each critical care areas allow quick, safe access to medications and pharmacists. Additionally, all patients will have a private room that is designed to accommodate sleeping space for two parents. Playrooms and family rooms give families a place to gather and relax.

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

The 60-bed NICU serves the region's most critically ill babies. Located on the fourth floor, the NICU has a private consultation room and a family lounge. Special rooms for twins allow parents to have both babies in the same room. Le Bonheur hosts the area's only Level III C NICU designated by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Le Bonheur's NICU is able to provide continuous life support and comprehensive care to newborns with complex illnesses and high-risk conditions while supporting family-centered care practices.

Pediatric Intensive Care Unit

Moving from an open-unit floor plan in our existing hospital, the new PICU is designed around the needs of families. Each patient will have a private room, which will allow parents to stay with their children at all times. The structure of the unit also encourages parents to participate in medical rounds. The redundant systems built into the headwalls prepare each room for the needs of all types of patients and equipment. The 20-bed PICU cares for more than 1,600 critically ill children each year. It is the only pediatric unit in the region staffed 24 hours a day by pediatricians who specialize in the care of critically ill children. The unit provides Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) in which blood is pumped through an artificial lung. Oxygen is added, carbon dioxide is removed and the blood is returned to the child.

Intermediate Care

The Intermediate Care floor, the first of its kind in Tennessee, is a 21-bed unit, which specializes in the care of technology-dependent children. The sixth floor unit is designed for children who have been released from the PICU but are still in need of Le Bonheur's services and require extensive discharge instruction before they sent home.

Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit

The 10-bed CVICU is a resource for critically ill neonatal, pediatric patients and adults with congenital and acquired heart disease. The unit is conveniently located on the second floor near the heart catheterization laboratory, surgical suites and blood bank – all essential resources to the unit. Additionally, the new unit has a call room for the cardiac intensivists staffing the unit, so a physician will always be close to patients around the clock.

Emergency Department

The 60-bed Emergency Department handles patients with everything from persistent fevers to major traumas. Of the more than 70,000 patients seen in the ED each year, 1,100 are major or minor trauma cases. In the new hospital, the unit doubles its space for trauma victims moving from two to four trauma rooms. Bedside radiology and advanced resuscitative care help the medical team intervene faster when minutes matter. If a patient is transported by helicopter, a dedicated elevator can deliver a patient from the roof to the ED in one minute. The unit also has a decontamination unit in the event of disasters including toxic chemicals.