Building Hope: Cancer and Critical Care Expansion

Critical Care Unit Preview

With your help, Seattle Children's will expand our critical care units in a new, state-of-the-art building. Here's how the features of the facility will make a difference for critically ill patients — and their families.





A new standard for critical care

Seattle Children's provides life-saving critical care for the sickest kids in our region. But right now, we can't be certain that a bed will be available when a child needs us. Our critical care units are often at capacity.

Families caring for a critically ill child experience tremendous stress. Today, many patients in our critical care units must share rooms, which doubles the emotional burden on families while exposing patients to infection risks. Medical equipment in a small space can create a physical barrier between patients and their families, further compounding distress.

To meet the needs of critically ill children and their families, Children's is improving critical care services in the new building by:

- Adding up to 32 beds in single-patient rooms by 2013. Spacious rooms will enable parents to stay close to their children. Medical teams will have plenty of space to care for patients in routine and emergency situations — and work around specialized equipment.
- Helping families maintain some of the rhythms of daily life. Amenities within and beyond patient rooms will better support families during their child's hospitalization.

continued on page 2

Did you know?

Seattle Children's critical care teams treat the sickest kids in our region patients who often need life-saving expertise and technology that only Children's can provide.

Since 2009, our critical care units have exceeded the recommended inpatient capacity 80% of the time.

When our critical care units are full. patients must be diverted to other medical centers — sometimes in other states — or surgeries may be canceled to accommodate children with life-threatening conditions.



A facility worthy of world-class care:

The expanded critical care unit will occupy the fourth floor of the new Seattle Children's facility. Abundant natural light, eco-friendly building materials and innovative design contribute to the healing environment.





"Families never forget the experience of intensive care. The changes we're making in the new building will improve the hospital experience for patients and their families during a time of crisis — and help us provide the most compassionate care."

> - Susanne Matthews, RN veteran critical care nurse



More space in private rooms: Spacious, single-patient rooms in the new critical care unit will feature flexible spaces for dining, entertainment and medical consultations. They also include private bathrooms and room for two caregivers to stay overnight.



Maintaining the rhythms of daily life: Many critically ill children are hospitalized for weeks or months — and their families spend most of their time in a hospital room. The new critical care unit will offer spaces that support families away from patient rooms — including "quiet rooms" for reflection and family lounges with computers. The lounges also feature microwave ovens, space for food storage and preparation, and areas for families to share meals and conversation.

How you can help:

You can make a difference for children enduring critical illness — and their families — by supporting the Building Hope project. For more information, please contact Seattle Children's Hospital Foundation at 206-987-2153 or askus@seattlechildrens.org.