

Common Words You May Hear in the PICU

Afebrile: A normal temperature, no fever.

A-line (Arterial Line): A small catheter/tube, similar to an IV, that is placed into an artery and allows for continuous blood pressure monitoring. This catheter/tube can be easily and painlessly used for drawing blood.

Blood gas: A lab test that tells us the oxygen and carbon dioxide levels in your child's blood. It helps the medical team determine how well the lungs are working and if any changes need to be made to your child's breathing support.

Bradycardia: A low heart rate for your child's age.

Central Line: A large, long tube/catheter that goes deep into a vein. This line is used for longer, more stable IV access than a PIV is (See PIV below). Central lines are used to give your child's fluids and medications. It can also be used to draw blood.

CPAP Trial: A ventilator test to determine your child's readiness to remove the breathing tube.

Emesis: Throw up.

ET Tube (Endotracheal Tube): A plastic tube inserted through your child's mouth and into their airway to help with breathing. It is attached to a ventilator. (See 'Ventilator' below).

Extubate: When the breathing tube (ET tube) is removed from your child's airway.

Febrile: To have a fever/temperature > 38 degrees Celsius or 100.5 degrees Fahrenheit.

Foley Catheter: A small plastic catheter/tube inserted into your child's bladder to help your child pee.

G-tube (Gastric Tube): A tube that is surgically inserted into your child's stomach through their abdomen. This is used for medications and nutrition.

High Flow Nasal Cannula: This is placed into your child's nose to help aid their breathing by providing more support as compared to oxygen given through the device off the wall. This is used most commonly for children diagnosed with bronchiolitis.

Hypertension: A high blood pressure for your child's age.

Hypotension: A low blood pressure for your child's age.

Intubate: To insert a breathing tube (ET tube) into your child's airway to help with breathing.

MAP (Mean Arterial Pressure): A measure of your child's "average" blood pressure. It is usually the third number from a blood pressure reading. Ex: 120/80 (93). The "(93)" is the MAP of the blood pressure. 120 is the systolic blood pressure. 80 is the diastolic blood pressure.

Nasal Cannula: A plastic tube that delivers oxygen through the nose.

Nausea/Nauseous: Your child's stomach hurts. They may feel like they need to throw up.

NG Tube (Nasogastric Tube): A tube placed through the nose that goes into the stomach. This can be used for medications and nutrition when your child is unable to take them by mouth. It can also be used to empty your child's stomach when there is air/stomach contents that need to come out. The NG tube is often called by their brand names - either a "Salem Sump" or "Replogle".

NJ (Nasojejunal Tube)/Dobhoff Tube: A tube placed through the nose or mouth that goes past the stomach into the intestine. Used for medications and nutrition when a gastric (stomach) tube is unsafe to use at this time or not tolerated by your child. The brand name for the tube we use is called a "Dobhoff tube" and is often called an NJ tube. You may hear either of these names to describe this tube.

O2 Sats (Oxygen Saturation): Measurement of the amount of oxygen carried in your body. Measured by the bandage-like probe usually placed on your child's finger/toe/foot.

PIV (Peripheral IV): A small and short catheter/tube inserted into a vein to give fluids and medications to your child.

PICC Line (Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter): A larger, long IV or tube that goes into a vein in the arm or leg that can be used for months if needed. Used for fluids, medications and blood draws.

PO: To take by mouth.

Tachycardia: A high heart rate for your child's age.

Trach Tube (Tracheostomy Tube): A more stable, longer term airway that is surgically placed through the neck into the trachea. This replaces an ET tube for those who need breathing support longer. Trachs can be temporary or permanent.

Ventilator: The machine used to help with breathing while the patient has an ET Tube. It allows for different settings that range from full assistance with breathing to minimal assistance with breathing. When on minimal settings, your child does most of the breathing on their own.

Vitals: A generic term for the measurement of your child's heart rate, respiratory rate, temperature and blood pressure.

Common Team Members You May See

Attending/Intensivist: The physician in charge of your child's care in the PICU. They supervise the Residents. Our PICU team at Erlanger Children's consists of 7 intensivists. At least one of these physicians is present 24/7.

Case Manager: A social worker or nurse specifically dedicated to coordination of care with multidisciplinary teams as well as any discharge needs.

Chaplain: A spiritual support person who can cater to a variety of faith needs during a hospitalization.

Child Life Specialist: Trained to help with the emotional and developmental needs of your child while hospitalized. A Child Life Specialist can help families by communicating with the patient at their developmental level about procedures, diagnosis, and other difficult topics. They may also provide therapeutic distraction during procedures and can help make their room feel more familiar and comfortable while being cared for in the PICU.

Dietician: A specialist who focuses on the nutrition needs of your child.

PCT (Patient Care Tech): Nurse aide/assistant that can help with activities of daily living.

Pharmacist: The expert on your child's medications. They help with prescribing the appropriate dosing and physically dispense the medications.

Resident: A physician who has graduated medical school and is in specialized training, usually to become a pediatric doctor or Emergency Room physician. They are supervised by our Attendings (also known as Intensivists).

RN (Registered Nurse): The person/nurse who cares for your child at bedside through the day/night.

RRT (Registered Respiratory Therapist): Aide in all of your child's breathing needs. They can administer breathing treatments if prescribed and monitor and make adjustments to oxygen and ventilator settings if needed.

Sitter: An individual assigned to physically sit inside or right outside of your child's room to ensure patient safety.

Social Worker: Can provide resources both in and out of hospital to aid with emotional, financial, and logistical concerns of a hospitalization.

Surgeon: A specially trained doctor who performs your child's surgery in the operating room. There are a wide variety of surgery specialties you may encounter including:

- **ENT:** Ear/Nose/Throat
- **Neurosurgery:** Brain
- **Gastrointestinal (GI):** Stomach/Intestine
- **Plastics:** Reconstructive, Skin
- **Trauma:** Severe Injuries
- **Orthopedic:** Bones