

Specialist Guide

Types of specialists in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CVICU)



Hospital Support Staff

Nurses

- **Charge Nurse:** ensuring patient safety, optimal care delivery, and supporting the nursing team.
- **Bedside ICU Nurse:** RN/LPN, direct patient care; gives medications, monitors vitals.
- **Certified Nursing Assistant, CNA:** assists bedside nurse with direct patient care.

Support Staff

- **Respiratory Therapist:** involved in evaluating, treating, and caring for patients breathing support, help increase lung function, prescribe breathing treatments and oxygen.
- **Perfusionist:** Operates the heart-lung machine during cardiac surgery and other procedures that require the temporary support of a patient's circulatory and respiratory functions (ECMO).

Support Staff cont.

- **Dietician:** Assesses patients' nutritional needs and develops personalized meal plans to support recovery and manage medical conditions.
- **Echocardiogram "Echo" Technician:** Specializes in performing echocardiograms, which are ultrasound exams of the heart's chambers, vessels, and valves.
- **EKG (Electrocardiogram) Technician:** Performs EKG tests to monitor and record the electrical activity of a patient's heart.
- **Social Worker:** Supports patients and their families by addressing the emotional, social, and financial challenges that arise during illness or hospitalization.
- **Child Life Specialist:** Help kids grasp what's happening, ease fears through education, support & play.

Specialized Physicians

Medical doctors with special training

- **Pediatric Cardiac Anesthesiologists:** manage the unique physiological needs of infants, children, and adolescents during surgery as well as keeping the patient pain free and comfortable.
- **Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgeon:** treats infants, children and teens with complex heart or lung conditions that require surgical procedures to correct heart, lung, and chest cavity defects
- **Cardiac Intensivist:** these doctors have specialize training in both cardiology and critical care to directly oversee patients in the CVICU. They oversee complex and acute heart issues while working with the who CVICU team.

- **Electrophysiologist (EP):** a cardiologist who specializes in the heart's electrical system that controls heart rhythm.
- **Pediatric Cardiologist:** doctor who diagnoses and treats heart conditions.

Medical Hierarchy

- **Attending Physician:** a fully licensed, board-certified doctor who is responsible for the overall care of a patient. Supervises training of the following:
 - **Fellow:** completed medical school and residency and is under-going training to become specialist.
 - **Resident:** medical school graduate who is in a post-graduate training program.

Consulting Physicians

- **Geneticist:** diagnoses, evaluates, and treats symptoms of genetic conditions .
- **Endocrinologist:** diagnoses and treats conditions related to hormone disorders and imbalances.
- **Pulmonologist:** diagnoses and treats disease or disorders of the lungs and respiratory system.

- **Nephrologist:** diagnoses and treats diseases or conditions that affect the kidneys.
- **Neurology:** diagnoses and treats disorders affecting the brain, spinal cord, and nerves.
- **Gastroenterologist:** diagnoses and treats diseases affecting the digestive system, like the esophagus, stomach, intestines, liver, gallbladder, and pancreas.