Objectives of Training in Pediatric Critical Care Medicine

2005

This document applies to those who begin training on or after July 1st, 2005.

(Please see also the “Policies and Procedures.”)

DEFINITION

Pediatric critical care medicine is a multidisciplinary field concerned with infants, children and adolescents who have sustained, or are at risk of sustaining life threatening, single or multiple organ system failure due to disease or injury. Pediatric critical care medicine seeks to provide for the needs of these patients through immediate and continuous observation and intervention so as to restore health and prevent complications. A specialist in pediatric critical care medicine is a physician or surgeon who is competent in all aspects of recognizing and managing acutely ill pediatric patients with single or multiple organ system failure requiring ongoing monitoring and support.

GOALS

The rapidly expanding body of knowledge regarding the treatment of the critically ill, the continuing introduction of new technology for life support, and more complex societal issues (legal, moral, ethical) have created a need for specialists trained in the recognition and management of this patient subset. To develop such specialists individual residency programs must focus on the knowledge, skills, and attitudes pertinent to the expected roles and competencies of the pediatric critical care medicine specialist.

Residents training within the unique interactive environment in which the critically ill are managed must respect the rights of the patient and family and acknowledge the importance of age, gender, culture, and ethnicity.

PEDIATRIC CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE COMPETENCIES

At the completion of training, the resident will have acquired the following competencies and will function effectively as a:

Medical Expert/Clinical Decision-Maker

General Requirements:
The pediatric critical care medicine resident must demonstrate:
1. diagnostic and therapeutic skills for ethical and effective care of the critically ill patient
2. the ability to access and apply relevant information to the practice of critical care
3. effective consultation services with respect to patient care, education and legal
   opinions.

Specific Requirements:
The pediatric critical care medicine resident will:
1. demonstrate detailed knowledge of the generalist and specialist aspects of critical
   illness.
2. demonstrate the safe application of equipment, careful monitoring, judicious use of
   drugs, and the coordinated provision of multidisciplinary care for effective organ system
   support.
3. be able to recognize, resuscitate, and stabilize patients sustaining, or at risk of,
   cardiopulmonary arrest or other life-threatening disturbances.
4. demonstrate knowledge of applied clinical physiology and homeostasis and be able to
   recognize, prevent, and treat single or multiple organ failure.
5. demonstrate basic understanding of physiology, pathophysiology, and pharmacology as
   it pertains to the critically ill patient.
6. demonstrate understanding of the unique aspects of the developing infant, child, and
   adolescent, including a broad based understanding of developmental physiology and
   age-related diseases, developmental pharmacology, and the psychosocial needs of
   these patients and their families.
7. demonstrate both basic and applied knowledge of the following dysfunctions as outlined
   below.
   7.1. Respiratory Dysfunction
       7.1.1. The ability to determine the presence of respiratory failure, provide for its
               emergency support, and have a plan of action to subsequently
               investigate and manage problems.
       7.1.2. Demonstrate knowledge of:
           7.1.2.1. the normal anatomy of the respiratory system
           7.1.2.2. the physiology of the gas exchange unit, lung and chest wall mechanics
           7.1.2.3. the airway dynamics and the control of respiration
           7.1.2.4. the pathophysiology of disease states leading to respiratory failure
           7.1.2.5. chest imaging of the ICU patient
           7.1.2.6. the principles and theory of mechanical ventilation and other methods of
                      respiratory support
           7.1.2.7. the respiratory problems and their management following surgical
                      interventions; physiology and pathophysiology of respiratory
                      development during growth and development from intrauterine life to
                      adulthood
           7.1.2.8. the disease processes related to the different stages of development of
                      the pediatric respiratory system.

   7.2. Cardiovascular Dysfunction
       7.2.1. The ability to recognize the problem, provide emergency life support, and
               embark upon a diagnostic and management program.
       7.2.2. Demonstrate knowledge of:
           7.2.2.1. the methods and application of “Pediatric Advanced Life Support” (PALS)
                      techniques
           7.2.2.2 the methods and application of “Neonatal Advanced Life Support” (NALS)
                      techniques
           7.2.2.3 the invasive and non-invasive hemodynamic monitoring
7.2.2.4 the pathophysiology and treatment of cardiac failure in neonates, infants, children, and adolescents, including the pharmacology of drugs used to treat these entities
7.2.2.5 the basic and complex cardiac arrhythmias, including pharmacological and electrical management
7.2.2.6 the shock syndromes, with emphasis on the pathophysiological events leading to and resulting from the shock state
7.2.2.7 the heart-lung interactions
7.2.2.8 the congenital malformations of the vascular system leading to heart failure and/or hypoxemia
7.2.2.9 the problems associated with surgical interventions in children with cardiac disease.

7.3. **Neurological Dysfunction**
7.3.1 The ability to recognize the problem of a patient with central nervous system (CNS) crisis and/or an altered level of consciousness, institute immediate life-sustaining measures, carry out appropriate neurological examination, derive a differential diagnosis, and continue with appropriate diagnostic and supportive measures.
7.3.2 Demonstrate knowledge of:
7.3.2.1 the toxic, metabolic, structural, and infectious causes of altered consciousness
7.3.2.2 the intracranial hypertension (pathophysiology, investigation, monitoring techniques, treatment)
7.3.2.3 the status epilepticus (pathophysiology, investigation, systemic metabolic consequences, pharmacological management)
7.3.2.4 the clinical diagnosis of brain death and confirmatory investigations involved
7.3.2.5 the environmental and drug-related psychopathology associated with critical illness (anxiety, sleep disorders, hallucinations and withdrawal)
7.3.2.6 the perioperative management of major neurosurgical procedures.

7.4 **Neuromuscular Dysfunction**
7.4.1 The ability to recognize the severity of the problem of a patient with an acute or chronic neuromuscular disorder, institute life-sustaining measures, and compose a program of definitive diagnosis, support, and specific therapy.
7.4.2 Demonstrate knowledge of:
7.4.2.1 the specific physiological support (support of vital organs, circulation, respiration, nutrition, bowel, bladder, and skin care)
7.4.2.2 the acute neuromuscular disease (disorders of the myoneural junction, myopathy and polyneuropathy of the critically ill, spinal cord syndromes) including investigations and therapeutic options
7.4.2.3 the medical, administrative, and ethical considerations associated with the institution and maintenance of long-term mechanical ventilation
7.4.2.4 the supportive services integral to the management of patients with neuromuscular diseases (physiotherapy, occupational therapy, orthotics, social services)

7.5 **Renal Dysfunction**
7.5.1 The ability to recognize the problem of a patient with oliguria or evidence
of advancing or established renal failure, institute measures to preserve remaining renal function, and provide for precise diagnosis, adequate supportive measures, and appropriate therapy.

7.5.2 Demonstrate knowledge of:

7.5.2.1 the pathophysiology and management, both medical and surgical, of acute renal failure (pre-renal, renal and post-renal failure)
7.5.2.2 pharmacodynamics and nephrotoxins
7.5.2.3 perioperative issues, pharmacological management, and potential complications in the renal transplant patient

7.6 Gastrointestinal Dysfunction
7.6.1 The ability to evaluate the nature of the illness of a patient who presents with gastrointestinal (GI) crisis, institute immediate life-sustaining support, and develop a diagnostic and therapeutic plan.

7.6.2 Demonstrate knowledge of:

7.6.2.1 the etiology, diagnosis, and management of the acute abdomen
7.6.2.2 the etiology, diagnosis, and management of hollow viscus dysfunction (obstruction, ischemia, perforation, dysmotility)
7.6.2.3 the etiology, diagnosis, and management of upper and lower GI bleeding
7.6.2.4 the complications of abdominal surgery and trauma
7.6.2.5 the diagnosis and management of the child presenting with congenital malformations of the GI system

7.7 Hepatic Dysfunction
7.7.1 The ability to recognize the problem of a patient with jaundice and/or manifest hepatic failure, provide for immediate life-sustaining support, and develop a diagnostic and therapeutic plan.

7.7.2 Demonstrate knowledge of:

7.7.2.1 the pathophysiology and management of acute and chronic liver disease
7.7.2.2 the biosynthetic, immunologic, and detoxification functions of the liver
7.7.2.3 the liver transplant patient, including perioperative issues, pharmacological management, potential complications

8. Demonstrate both basic and applied knowledge of the following disorders, as outlined below.

8.1 Hematological/Oncologic Disorders
8.1.1 The ability to recognize the problem of a patient with a malignancy, a thrombotic or thrombolytic disorder, bleeding, neutropenia, or anemia, provide for any indicated life-sustaining support, and proceed with an orderly course of investigation, management, continued monitoring, and support.

8.1.2 Demonstrate knowledge of:

8.1.2.1 the pathogenesis and management of thrombocytopenia, anemia, and neutropenia
8.1.2.2 the pathogenesis and management of oncologic emergencies
8.1.2.3 the pathogenesis and management of hemolytic and vaso-occlusive diseases
8.1.2.4 the coagulation sequence, fibrinolytic pathway, and their associated disorders
8.1.2.5 blood component therapy and alternatives available

1 Knowledge only, not actual patient experience, if specialized training not available at the program site.
8.1.2.6 anticoagulant and fibrinolytic therapies

8.2 **Metabolic - Endocrine Disorders**
8.2.1 The ability to recognize the nature and severity of the problem of a patient with metabolic, endocrine, or fluid and/or electrolyte abnormalities, establish a differential diagnosis, and embark on a course of definitive diagnosis, treatment, and continued monitoring and support.
8.2.2 Demonstrate knowledge of:
8.2.2.1 the diagnosis and management of fluid and/or electrolyte disturbances
8.2.2.2 the pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment of acid-base disorders
8.2.2.3 the pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment of endocrine emergencies
8.2.2.4 normal and abnormal body temperature regulation and their associated disorders, with emphasis on the demands placed on neonates and small children during normal thermoregulation
8.2.2.5 the diagnosis and management of acute presentation/crises of inborn errors of metabolism

8.3 **Trauma**
8.3.1 The ability to manage the patient who has sustained severe trauma, with or without extensive soft tissue and bony injury, in accordance with practices advocated by "Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS)" training.
8.3.2 Demonstrate knowledge of:
8.3.2.1 the necessity to evaluate and prioritize the unique needs of the traumatized patient
8.3.2.2 the need for continuing care of the traumatized patient with regard to all systems, injured or not
8.3.2.3 the secondary insults that enhance the primary pathogenicity of the traumatized organs
8.3.2.4 the special needs of the physically and/or sexually abused child
8.3.2.5 the long term sequelae, physical and emotional requirements of the traumatized child and their family, and the prognosis of traumatized children

8.4 **Septic Illness**
8.4.1 The ability to recognize the infective nature of the condition of a patient with catastrophic septic illness, institute immediate life-sustaining measures, establish a differential diagnosis (site of origin, etiological pathogens), and embark upon a course of definitive diagnosis, continued life support, and appropriate antimicrobial and/or surgical therapy.
8.4.2 Demonstrate knowledge of:
8.4.2.1 available techniques for diagnostic procedures
8.4.2.2 the epidemiology of host specific infectious disease
8.4.2.3 the immunocompromised host response
8.4.2.4 preventative infection control techniques, including antibiotic prophylaxis of contacts, when appropriate
8.4.2.5 the pharmacology, indications, complications, interactions, monitoring, and efficacy of usual antimicrobial agents
8.4.2.6 the occult indicators of sepsis
8.4.2.7 the systemic inflammatory response syndrome
8.4.2.8 the multiple organ dysfunction syndrome
8.5  **Intoxication**  
8.5.1 The ability to formulate a differential diagnosis for a patient potentially suffering from a toxic syndrome and undertake a sequential plan to support organ function, prevent further absorption, alter distribution, and if possible, enhance elimination by natural and mechanical means.

8.5.2 Demonstrate knowledge of:
8.5.2.1 the general support, together with any specific antidotes or supportive therapy pertinent to individual intoxicants
8.5.2.2 the pharmacology of common intoxicants
8.5.2.3 strategies to reduce absorption and enhance elimination (hemodialysis, hemoperfusion)
8.5.2.4 the need of patients and families for emotional and psychiatric support

8.6  **Burns and/or Electrical Injury**  
8.6.1 The ability to institute immediate life-supportive measures for a patient who has sustained primary, secondary, or tertiary life threatening burns and develop a plan of ongoing support (adequate fluid resuscitation, maintenance of vital organ systems' integrity, prevention and management of burn wound sepsis, minimization of metabolic complications).

8.6.2 Demonstrate knowledge of:
8.6.2.1 the pathophysiology and medical/surgical management of the phases of the burn injury
8.6.2.2 the respiratory complications of burn injuries (smoke inhalation, airway burns)
8.6.2.3 the environmental control necessary for optimal care

9. Demonstrate both basic and applied knowledge of the following health issues, as outlined below.

9.1  **Nutritional Support**  
9.1.1 Evaluate the nutritional status of the critically ill patient, identify current deficiencies, ongoing losses, and extra needs induced by the illness, including the ability to devise a management strategy for the provision of either enteral and/or parenteral nutrition to sustain the patient throughout the period of critical illness.

9.1.2 Demonstrate knowledge of:
9.1.2.1 fluid compartments and fluid/caloric requirements in the critically ill patient
9.1.2.2 the techniques and laboratory tests used to evaluate nutritional status
9.1.2.3 the methods of assessing basal energy expenditure and monitoring effectiveness
9.1.2.4 indications, limitations, methods, and complications of enteral and parenteral nutritional techniques

9.2  **Pharmacotherapy**  
9.2.1 Have a thorough knowledge of indications, risks, and side effects of relevant pharmacotherapy.

9.2.2 Demonstrate knowledge of:
9.2.2.1 the principles of clinical pharmacology
9.2.2.2 the pharmacologic and therapeutic applications of drugs, with particular emphasis on differences found in age ranges
9.2.2.3 side effects, drug interactions associated with medications
9.2.2.4 the indications for, and management of, sedation, analgesia, and neuromuscular blockade

9.3 **Transportation**

9.3.1 Demonstrate a basic understanding of the problems peculiar to the transportation of the critically ill patient.

9.3.2 Demonstrate knowledge of:

9.3.2.1 communication, triage and preparation prior to and during transport
9.3.2.2 altitude physiology associated with air transport
9.3.2.3 the unique monitoring and management problems associated with transport
9.3.2.4 the role of paramedical personnel
9.3.2.5 the determination of need for physician accompaniment
9.3.2.6 the special needs of infants and small children requiring transportation

9.4 **Transplantation**

9.4.1 Demonstrate and awareness of common problems peculiar to transplantation.

9.4.2 Demonstrate knowledge of:

9.4.2.1 organ donation and donor management
9.4.2.2 the medical, ethical and medico-legal issues of brain death
9.4.2.3 immunosuppression and rejection
9.4.2.4 opportunistic and nosocomial infectious risk and disease
9.4.2.5 the postoperative care of the transplant patient

9.5 **End of Life Issues**

9.5.1 In a patient where death is inevitable the resident will help facilitate a dignified process of life sustaining support withdrawal, without the withdrawal of care.

9.5.2 Demonstrate knowledge of:

9.5.2.1 withholding and withdrawing life sustaining therapies
9.5.2.2 clear decision-making and communication
9.5.2.3 pain and symptom management
9.5.2.4 psychological, social and spiritual support
9.5.2.5 bereavement
9.5.2.6 terminal care

10. Demonstrate proficiency in the following technical skills: (a core skill requires mastery of the technique; an advanced skill requires an appreciation and understanding of the technique, not the actual performance).

10.1 **Airway**

10.1.2 Core Competencies:

10.1.2.1 airway pharmacology
10.1.2.2 assessment and maintenance of the airway
10.1.2.3 suctioning techniques and airway toilet
10.1.2.4 oropharyngeal airways
10.1.2.5 orotracheal intubation
10.1.2.6 nasotracheal intubation
10.1.2.7 indication for urgent surgical airways
10.1.2.8 indication of tracheostomy for prolonged ventilation
10.1.2.9 replacement of an existing tracheostomy tube
10.1.3 Advanced Skills:
10.1.3.1 needle cricothyroidotomy

10.2 Breathing
10.2.1 Core Competencies:
10.2.1.1 application of end tidal CO₂ detector post intubation
10.2.1.2 application of capnography
10.2.1.3 application of pulse oxymetry
10.2.1.4 inhaled pharmacological therapies
10.2.1.5 ventilation by bag and mask
10.2.1.6 application of conventional positive pressure mechanical ventilation
10.2.1.7 application of non-invasive ventilation
10.2.1.8 advanced ventilation strategies
10.2.1.9 measurement and interpretation of pulmonary mechanics during mechanical ventilation
10.2.1.10 ventilation weaning techniques
10.2.1.11 special gas admixture administration (heliox, NO)
10.2.1.12 thoracocentesis
10.2.1.13 thoracostomy tube insertion

10.2.2 Advanced Skills:
10.2.2.1 fiberoptic bronchoscopy in the non-intubated patient
10.2.2.2 bronchoalveolar lavage

10.3 Circulation
10.3.1 Core Competencies
10.3.1.1 intraosseous vascular access
10.3.1.2 umbilical arterial and venous catherization
10.3.1.3 arterial lines
10.3.1.4 central venous lines
10.3.1.5 mixed venous oxygen saturation and tension
10.3.1.6 defibrillation
10.3.1.7 electrocardiogram (ECG) interpretation
10.3.1.8 elective cardioversion
10.3.1.9 pericardiocentesis
10.3.1.10 prevention and management of air embolism
10.3.1.11 utilization of a dual chamber temporary pacemaker
10.3.1.12 temporary transcutaneous pacemaker
10.3.1.13 utilization, zeroing, calibrations of transducers

10.3.2 Advanced Skills
10.3.2.1 application and maintenance of pulmonary artery catheter
10.3.2.2 cardiac output measurements and other derived calculation from pulmonary artery catheter

10.4 Central Nervous System (CNS)
10.4.1 Core Competencies
10.4.1.1 troubleshooting intracranial pressure (ICP) monitoring
10.4.1.2 cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) drainage for raised ICP
10.4.1.3 therapy aimed at maintenance of cerebral perfusion pressure
10.4.1.4 declaration of brain death
10.4.1.5 lumbar puncture
10.4.1.6 monitoring the degree of neuromuscular blockade with peripheral nerve stimulation
10.4.2 Advanced Skills
10.4.2.1 supervision of ICP monitoring
10.4.2.2 advanced ICP monitoring techniques
10.4.2.3 application of electroencephalogram (EEG) monitoring / cerebral Doppler

10.5 Renal
10.5.1 Core competencies
10.5.1.1 bladder catheterization

10.5.2 Advanced Skills
10.5.2.1 renal preservation and support, including continuous renal replacement therapy
10.5.2.2 plasmapheresis

10.6 Gastrointestinal
10.6.1 Core Competencies
10.6.1.1 naso/orogastric tube placement
10.6.1.2 duodenal intubation for feeding purpose
10.6.1.3 intra abdominal pressure monitoring
10.6.1.4 peritoneal tap

10.7 Nutrition
10.7.1 Core Competencies
10.7.1.1 determination of a nutritional plan

10.7.2 Advanced Skills
10.7.2.1 indirect calorimetry

10.8 Transport
10.8.1 Core Competencies
10.8.1.1 organization and supervision of inter- and intra-city transfers

10.9 Other
10.9.1 Core Competencies
10.9.1.1 application of techniques to treat or induce hypo/hyperthermia

10.9.2 Advanced Skills
10.9.2.1 safe use of fluoroscopy in the ICU

Communicator

General Requirements
The pediatric critical care medicine resident must be able to:
1. establish relationships with patients/families
2. listen effectively
3. obtain and synthesize relevant history from patients/families/communities
4. discuss appropriate information with patients/families and the health care team

Specific Requirements
The pediatric critical care medicine resident must be able to:
1. Assess, communicate with, and support patients and families confronted with critical
illness.
2. Explain life-sustaining therapies, in clear language, and describe the expected outcome of such therapies in view of the patient’s goals and wishes.
3. Know and understand the consequences of the language used to impart information.
4. Be acquainted with the unique stressful environment of the critical care milieu for patients and their families.
5. Demonstrate respect and understanding for the role of other team members in communicating and facilitating decision-making with critically ill patients and their families.
6. Communicate effectively with families who may be dysfunctional, angry, confused, or litigious.
7. Explain the concept of brain death and organ donation, in clear language.

Collaborator

General Requirements
The pediatric critical care medicine resident must be able to:
1. consult effectively with other physicians and health care professionals
2. contribute effectively to interdisciplinary team activities

Specific Requirements
The pediatric critical care medicine resident must be able to:
1. Contribute to productive communication and cooperation among colleagues in all aspects of education, service, and research, as they impact on the critical care environment, recognizing the multi-disciplinary nature of the specialty.
2. Demonstrate knowledge and skill in preventing and resolving conflict.
3. Demonstrate leadership in the continuing education of members of the multi-disciplinary health care team.

Manager

General Requirements
The pediatric critical care medicine resident must be able to:
1. allocate finite health care resources wisely
2. work effectively and efficiently in a health care organization
3. utilize information technology to optimize patient care, life-long learning, and other activities
4. utilize personal resources effectively to balance patient care, learning needs, and outside activities

Specific Requirements
The pediatric critical care medicine resident must be able to:
1. Be familiar with the administrative organization required to operate a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit within an acute urban or rural hospital.
2. Be knowledgeable regarding unit staffing requirements, skills, education, and organization.
3. Be able to evaluate and cooperatively determine unit equipment requirements.
4. Be able to manage the clinical, academic, and administrative affairs of a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.
5. Demonstrate the ability to acquire, interpret, synthesize, record, and communicate
(written and verbal) clinical information in managing health problems in the critical care setting.

Health Advocate

General Requirements
The pediatric critical care medicine resident must be able to:
1. identify the important determinants of health affecting patients
2. contribute effectively to the improved health of patients and communities

Specific Requirements
The pediatric critical care medicine resident must be able to:
1. Understand, in general, the diverse determinants of health, disease, and illness, and relate occupational and environmental exposures, socio-economic factors, and life style factors to critical illness.
2. Understand, in general, the health care system and more specifically the structure, function, and financing of critical care units.
3. Understand the importance of medico-legal considerations for the critically ill.
4. Be able to communicate to the general population critical care issues and their impact on the maintenance and improvement of health care.

Scholar

General Requirements
The pediatric critical care medicine resident must be able to:
1. facilitate the learning of patients/families, house staff/students and other health professionals
2. contribute to the development of new knowledge
3. develop, implement, and monitor a personal continuing education strategy

Specific Requirements
The pediatric critical care medicine resident must be able to:
1. Demonstrate the expertise necessary for rational use of the principles of “evidence based medicine” in both clinical and research settings.
2. Demonstrate the expertise to competently appraise:
   i. levels of evidence
   ii. interventions
   iii. diagnostic tests
   iv. prognosis
   v. integrative literature (meta-analyses, practice guidelines, decision and economic analyses)
3. Demonstrate a basic understanding of biostatistics, study design, protocol writing, and manuscript preparation.
4. Demonstrate the ability to efficiently access information from the medical literature using current information retrieval tools.
5. Practice the principles of adult learning and help others learn by providing guidance constructive feedback.
6. Be familiar with the concepts of basic applied research and epidemiology in order to capably evaluate newer forms of therapy.
Professional

General Requirements
The pediatric critical care medicine resident must be able to:
1. deliver the highest quality care with integrity, honesty, and compassion
2. exhibit appropriate personal and interpersonal professional behaviours
3. practice medicine ethically consistent with the obligations of a physician

Specific Requirements
The pediatric critical care medicine resident must be able to:
1. Be aware of, and understand, moral and ethical issues as they impact on patients, their families, and critical care providers.
2. Understand the role and responsibilities of the critical care physician at the local, regional, and national levels.
3. Develop and demonstrate use of a framework for recognizing and dealing with ethical issues in clinical and/or research practice including truth-telling, consent, conflict of interest, resource allocation, and end-of-life care.