



## Joint pathway for children and young people < 18 years admitted to **RSCH Critical Care Units (ITU)**

J. Yassin, S. Drage, M. Z. Rahman, M. Lazner Author:

Publication date: December 2022. Version 2

Review date: December 2025

See also: Children's Critical Care Unit (CCU) guidelines, Paediatric Major Trauma guidelines and Child Death guidelines on Brighton Microguide Microguide Viewer - Viewer (Paediatrics and Neonatology > Paediatrics)

## A person is legally a child until their 18th birthday

- · Adolescents and young adults are still emotionally and cognitively developing and will likely still be living at home dependent on their parents.
- Child safeguarding and child death statutory processes must be followed
- The mental capacity act applies to children > 16 years old; assessment of 'Gilick' competence applies to children < 16 years.

## Person under 18 years old admitted to RSCH ITU

ITU lead nurse / shift lead informs Paediatric Nurse Bleep Holder on bleep 8651 who will inform Children's Critical Care Unit (CCU or HDU) nurse in charge

&

Children's Safeguarding Team:

- In hours: telephone ext 62363
- OOH: email uhsussex.safeguardingchildrenushe ast@nhs.net

Identify nursing and other support required and facilitate communication with family

Consider advice or visits from:

- children's CCU outreach nurse
- play specialist team
- CCU ward manager
- chaplaincy team

discuss patient

- Make arrangements for other specialist teams to be involved
- Make a plan for need / frequency of ongoing visits
- Aim for single points of contact if possible. If not, forward identify next contact

ITU consultant contacts Children's Critical Care Unit (CCU or HDU) consultant via switchboard

Discussion between consultants as to whether a visit is required Direct support will be required in the following situations:

- Children < 16 years
- suspicion of child abuse / significant safeguarding concerns
- complex congenital or specific 'paediatric' pathologies that may be unfamiliar to adult clinicians
- childhood malignancy
- If necessary, a visit to ITU will be arranged to:
- give paediatric medical advice
- facilitate communication with family and other teams if required e.g. children's safeguarding, CAMHS, children's social care