

## **Conducting Research In the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit McMaster Children's Hospital**

**(Pediatric Critical Care Research Committee)**

### **Introduction**

The Division of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine at Hamilton Health Sciences supports clinical research by conducting its own studies and collaborating with other researchers outside of the department. One of the many challenges the division faces is to balance the high clinical demands and limited resources of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) with the academic needs of teaching and research. Our goal is to do so in a way that optimizes patient care with maximum efficiency of resource utilization. When considering proposed research projects involving the PICU clinical care areas, patients, guardians, and/or healthcare providers, it is essential for research to take the form of collaborative research partnerships to support our academic and clinical goals.

### **Objectives**

- To review the nature of all research projects involving the PICU at McMaster Children's Hospital and assess the impact of proposed research on patient care and resource utilization.
- To advise researchers interested in conducting research involving PICU patients, caregivers of PICU patients, or PICU staff
- To provide an efficient mechanism for review of research proposals, and assistance obtaining required signatures for REB submission

### **Process**

Proposals for projects will be reviewed with a particular focus on the impact on patient care, the demands on PICU staff, potential for conflict with ongoing studies, and the involvement of McMaster University Pediatric Critical Care Medicine faculty members as investigators. We request that the investigator submit their proposal to the Pediatric Critical Care Research Committee **prior** to REB submission because research committee approval is needed to obtain required signatures from the PICU Manager and the PICU Division Head. These signatures are compulsory for any study that involves enrolment of PICU patients, execution of study procedures, data and/or specimen collection, or outcome ascertainment in the PICU setting. The required documentation for proposed research should be submitted **at least 2 weeks prior** to the next Research Ethics Board submission deadline to facilitate timely review and obtaining signatures (for approved studies).

Application materials are distributed electronically for review by a member of the PCCRC, the PICU Manager, and the PICU Division Head. Any issues of concern will be summarized and returned to the investigator(s) for responses, which are then resubmitted for review. This process is repeated until all issues resolved.

**Projects requiring Review:**

Any research study that requires:

- Enrolment and consent of patients admitted to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at McMaster Children's Hospital, caregivers of PICU patients, or PICU staff
- Study procedures, data or specimen collection, or outcome measurement ascertainment to be executed in the PICU

**Procedures**

Complete and submit the following documents as attachments in a single email addressed to Nancy Murphy (murphyn@mcmaster.ca) 905-521-2100 x76651.

1. Completed 'Pediatric Critical Care Medicine Impact Form' – submitted in **PDF FORMAT**
2. Abstract (maximum 300 words) describing the research
3. Protocol
4. Study budget (site budget where applicable)
5. Completed REB application form

If all necessary information has been provided, we will endeavor to communicate a decision within 2 weeks i.e. prior to the REB submission deadline.

**Pediatric Critical Care Research Committee Members:**

Chair – Dr. Karen Choong

Division Head – Dr. Jonathan Gilleland

PICU Nurse Manager – Margaret Purcha

PCCM Division Member – Dr. Melissa Parker

PCCM Division Member – Mark Duffett

Administrative Assistant – Nancy Murphy