

## McMaster Children's Hospital Pediatric Critical Care Research Committee

### Research communication strategy

#### Objectives:

1. To provide methods for coordinated and effective communication of research-related information to all stakeholders within the PICU and the division of pediatric critical care.
2. To foster a collaborative approach in the PICU environment

#### Types of information:

1. Study-specific information (e.g. new studies, study updates, research protocols, study procedures, bed-side staff engagement)
2. General research information or education (e.g. research methods and processes, ethics, grant writing)
3. Research opportunities (e.g. opportunities for funding, collaboration, conferences)
4. McMaster research highlights (e.g. recent publications, presentations, upcoming studies by team members)

#### Process for communication for new clinical studies involving PICU patients.

Prior to study start:

1. Complete and submit PICU research impact form at least 2 weeks prior to REB submission
2. Confirm who the target stakeholders are for study specific information (e.g. attendings, MD trainees, RN's, RT's, allied health, and potential participants and their families)
3. Confirm the relevant information and best communication avenues for each group of stakeholders
4. Inform PICU division members of proposed research in a letter that includes: the objectives, the intervention (where applicable), when and how SDMs and patients will be approached, and what any potential impact is anticipated on clinical care.

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### Consent Process for PICU studies

All research studies/trials involving human subjects (i.e. patients, parents and staff members) require Research Ethics Board (REB) approval prior to enrolment. Clinical research staff are required to observe Good Clinical Practice (GCP) Guidelines as these are fundamental to their role. Informed consent of the participant and/or substitute decision maker (SDM) is required for all clinical research studies, unless waived consent is specifically approved by the REB. The timing of approach for consent depends on the nature of the study – this may occur prior to, or after initiation of study procedures, in the case of deferred consent where the intervention is time-sensitive.

A collaborative approach between clinical and research staff is essential in Academic Health Science Centre settings like the McMaster Children's Hospital Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). In view of this, it is important to note that unless specifically required in the inclusion criteria of a research protocol, consent of the MRP and/or bedside staff is not a requirement prior to approaching the participant for consent. However, to ensure a collaborative approach to research activities in the PICU, the following approach is recommended:

1. All Research staff will be trained on how to approach patients and SDMs for consent prior to study start and will be respectful and sensitive during any communication with patients, SDMs and clinical staff. The clinical research protocol will not supersede or interfere with clinical care, unless it is explicit in the intervention or a requirement of the study protocol, and is approved by the REB.
2. When approaching for consent, the research staff will inform the MRP or delegate if available, of intent to approach for consent. They will notify the bedside RN, and where applicable obtain other relevant information from other team members (e.g. social worker) that may be important to the consent process (e.g. emotional status, social circumstances). The timing of approach for consent will be as stipulated in the study protocol, but will take into consideration the information provided by bedside staff.
3. If the bedside staff or MRP consider that the research staff should not approach the patient/SDM for consent, then in the context of a time sensitive study intervention/observation where consent cannot be deferred/waived, then the research staff will notify the local Principal Investigator for further discussion.

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**Avenues of communication:**

<b>Target audience</b>	<b>Format/Method</b>	<b>Suggested content</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Parents	Parent orientation booklet	Brief introduction to the role of research in the PICU	In development (Fil)
	General research pamphlet for parents	Introduction to the role of research in the PICU glossary of research terms General processes involved in participating (or not!) in a study Links to more parent information Insert listing active studies in the PICU	In development (Mark)
	TV in parent waiting room	Brief introduction to the role of research in the PICU, brief description of active studies	Under development (Mags)
Clinicians	Mass emails to staff	Study-specific information that is important, urgent and relevant for all PICU team members.	Discouraged for routine use. Send via Mags Purcha
	Daily Rounds Checklist	Checkbox: is patient potentially eligible for ongoing PICU research studies?	To increase medical team awareness of current research studies. Under development
	Pre-printed PICU admission orders	Check box for "Consult RA to screen for research study eligibility"	REB "...investigators will receive referrals from other Healthcare providers" (under development)
	Weekly Gazette emailed to all staff	Brief study-specific updates	Via Fil/Sandra Russell
	PICU research newsletter	recent publications, presentations, active and upcoming studies by team members	In development (Mark)
	Research posters on the PICU Research boards in staff lounge and doctor's charting area	Brief study-specific information Research opportunities McMaster research highlights	Activated

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	PICU divisional website (McMaster)	PICU research and communications documents posted	Activated. Venue for recent publications, presentations, active and upcoming studies by team members
	PICU sharepoint	Venue to post standardized summary for each study study-specific documents	Via: _____
	Research Log filed in the patient binder, under specific research tab	indicates studies patient is and is not enrolled in and if not suitable for specific studies contact information for each study	Activated
	Signs for patient rooms	Indicates patient is enrolled in a study	Activated