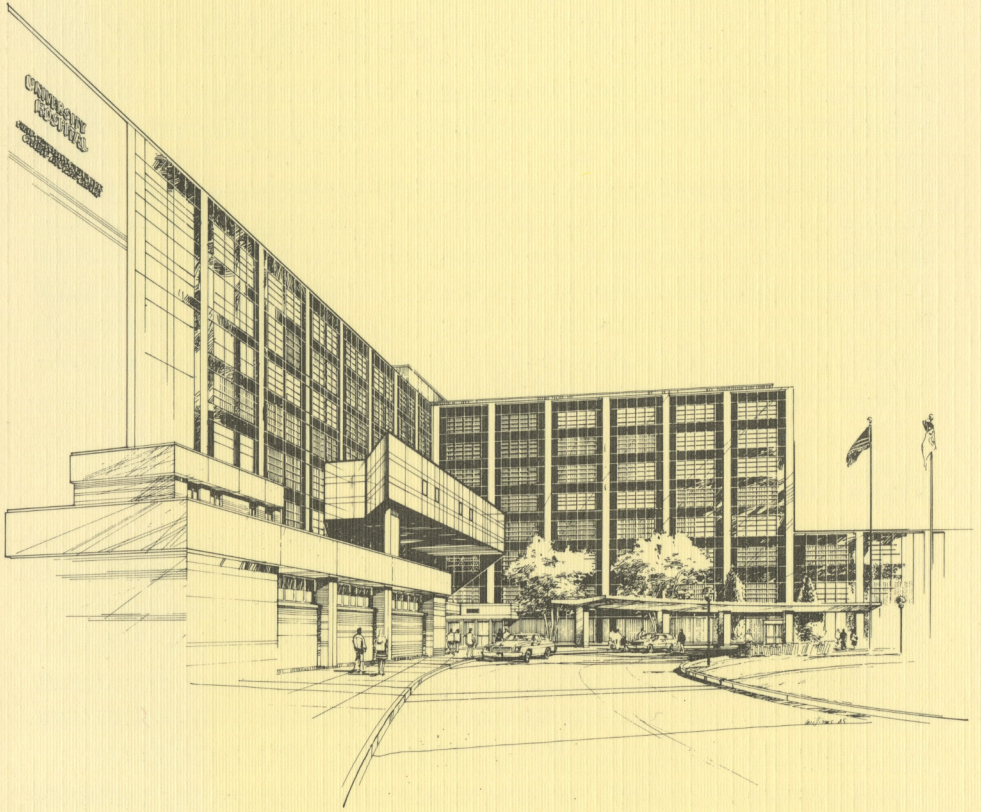


# Central New York Pediatric Intensive Care Unit



State University of New York  
Upstate Medical Center  
Syracuse, New York



## Answering the Needs of Our Kids

Children are special. Not just “small adults,” they have very special needs. It is in answer to their unique medical needs that the Central New York Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at SUNY Upstate Medical Center was conceived.

The Central New York PICU is designed to care for any child with a critical illness or injury from full-term newborn through adolescence and brings together specially trained physicians and staff for the patient.

The PICU has helped children recovering from major cardiac or general surgery as well as those who are victims of trauma, leukemia, Reye's Syndrome, near drowning, smoke inhalation and other problems or illnesses requiring intensive care treatment.

The last several years saw over 200 patients treated annually at a temporary four-bed unit. The expanded seven-bed unit will allow that number to swell, ensuring the best possible care for every child who needs it in Central New York. While half the patients treated are from Onondaga County, the rest come from Upstate's 15-county referral area from Canada to Pennsylvania and from Auburn to Utica and Rome.

## The Unit

The new Pediatric Intensive Care Unit is unique in its design. Consultations with critical care specialists across the country and site visits to many existing intensive care facilities produced a perfect place to nurse a sick child back to health.

It will bring to Upstate's University Hospital the most sophisticated and modern technology, equipment and services for improved health care for Central New York's children.

A centrally-located nursing station will keep the patients totally visible and keep supplies instantly accessible. Each child will be assigned to one of 30 specially trained registered nurses who becomes that patient's “primary” nurse. That nurse is responsible, with the physician, for planning all the child's care from admission to discharge. This type of care will provide a consistency for the child's stay.

Computerized equipment, such as state-of-the-art mechanical ventilation devices, cardiac monitors and support systems

are built into a panel at each bed, keeping vigil with the intensive care staff.

A private consultation room for parents and physicians allows information about the child to be discussed in privacy. A special family center lounge will provide families a comfortable and restful haven.

The commitment of the pediatric critical care services goes well beyond the care of patients in the PICU. It extends to innovative programs for education and coordination of children's emergency care throughout Central New York.

The recently established Pediatric Emergency Care Network is intended to give primary care givers, emergency personnel, and others involved in the care of children an authoritative resource for telephone consultation. The PICU also facilitates referral of particular patients requiring specialized care. The Network staff can help the referral source decide whether transporting is necessary or what stabilization techniques are needed.

Upstate Medical Center is concerned about children. The objective is to help sick children get well, and improve health care services for the children of today — and tomorrow. The Pediatric Intensive Care Unit is a giant step towards that goal.

## Staffing

The seven-bed intensive care unit on the fourth floor of the hospital is under the direction of two full-time pediatric intensivists. A pediatrician in the Pediatric Emergency Room is available for around-the-clock patient care.

A nursing staff, trained in this exacting specialty, account for the high quality of care given in the PICU. The 47 full-time members of the pediatric department faculty, in conjunction with efforts of 32 pediatric house officers in training, will offer additional support to the critical care staff.

The PICU's critical care staff is complemented by an interdisciplinary pediatric team including anesthesiology, cardiology, gastroenterology, surgery, neurology, ophthalmology, genetics, nephrology, endocrinology, pulmonology, oncology, radiology and infectious disease.



Respiratory therapists are part of the critical care team because children are more susceptible to infections which cause respiratory arrest. Clinical Pathology provides standard and specialized tests in hematology, chemistry, microbiology and immunology necessary for diagnosis and management of disease in pediatric patients.

## **The Campaign**

A \$1 million capital campaign for the Central New York Pediatric Intensive Care Unit was launched throughout the 15-county area in May of 1981 by the Upstate Medical Center Foundation, Inc. Douglas E. Kenna, then-president of Carrier Corporation and former president of the UMC Foundation, and Otto Nonnenmann, managing director of Bristol Myers Co., W. Germany and then-president of the UMC Foundation, were the campaign leaders.

The response of the Central New York Community went beyond expectation and the ground was broken April 23, 1984 and exactly one year later the construction phase was complete.

The need of a facility such as the PICU was easily recognized by the Auxiliary to Upstate Medical Center and it designated the PICU as the "cause" of its fund raising events in 1981. The Auxiliary pledged \$100,000 to the PICU to be raised from its Annual Art Show.

The fund raising campaign stretched outside the hospital to the generous 15-county Central New York area. Contributions were received from corporations, foundations, clubs and organizations as well as individual gifts.

Among the major contributors were: P&C Foods through its Food Fiesta, Allied Chemical Corporation, Crouse-Hinds Company, Carrier Corporation, B.G. Sulzle, Inc., Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Hazard, Sr., the Snow Foundation and the Gifford Foundation.

The Pediatric Intensive Care Unit's gleaming facade will always serve as a testimony to the generosity, sacrifices and enthusiasm of the people of Central New York.

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