

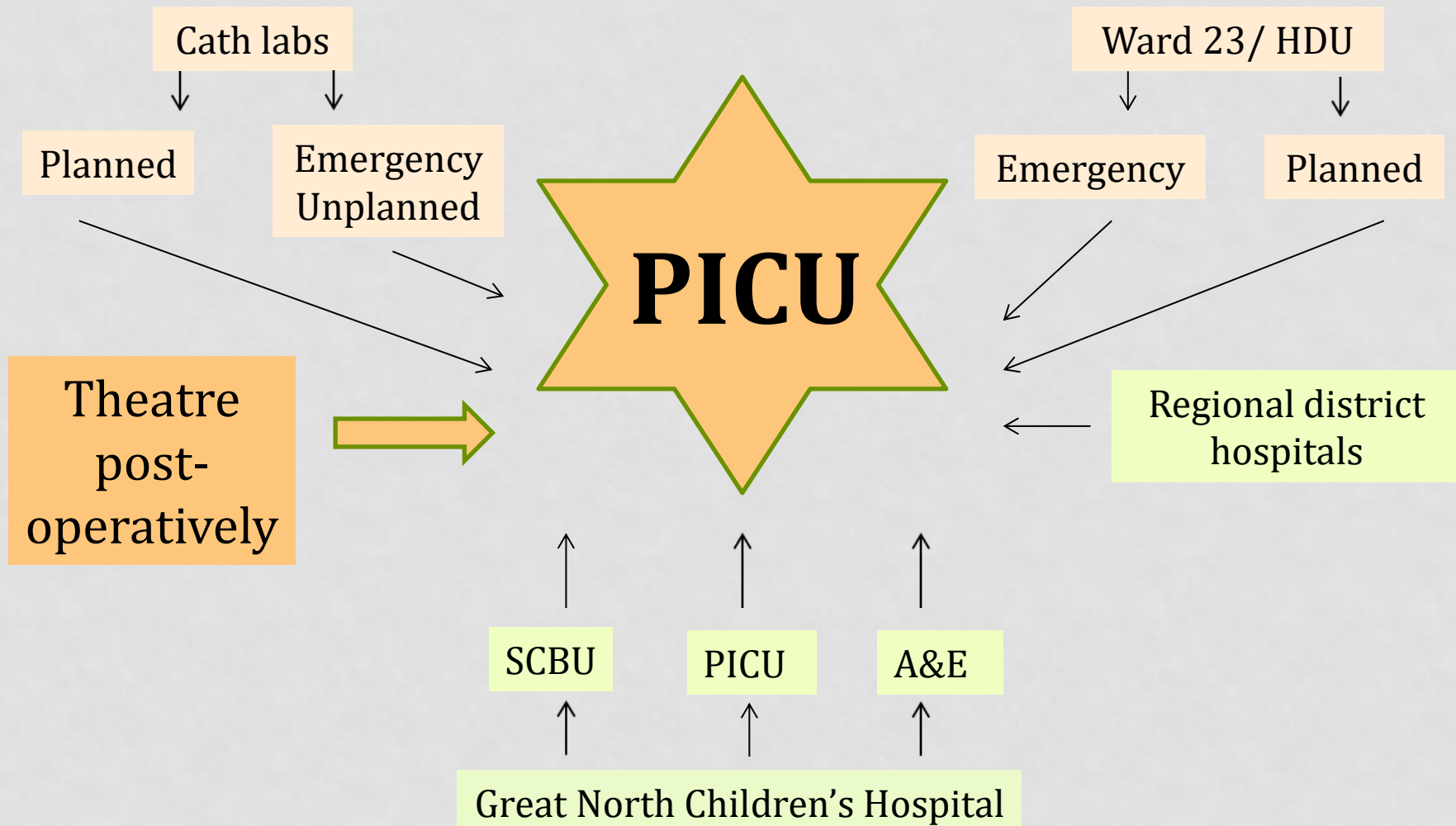
THE POST- OPERATIVE CARDIAC PATIENT

Paediatric Intensive Care



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ADMISSION TO PICU





THE IMMEDIATE FIRST HOUR

STABILISING!

UPON ARRIVAL...

A-E ASSESSMENT OF THE PATIENT!

- ABG & VBG
- ACT if post- bypass
- FBC, U&E, LFTs, COAG screen
- CXR
- ECG
- Commence Morphine or Fentanyl infusion for pain relief
- If required IV sedation and/or muscle relaxant
- Commence maintenance fluids
- Administer Fluid bolus if signs of hypovolaemia
- Consider the administration of clotting products and RBC if required
- Commence additional inotropes if unstable
- Perform a neurological assessment and pupil check
- Perform patient personal care and pressure relief

THE IMMEDIATE POST- OP A-D ASSESSMENT

Cerebral Saturation
monitoring

Core
temperature
monitoring

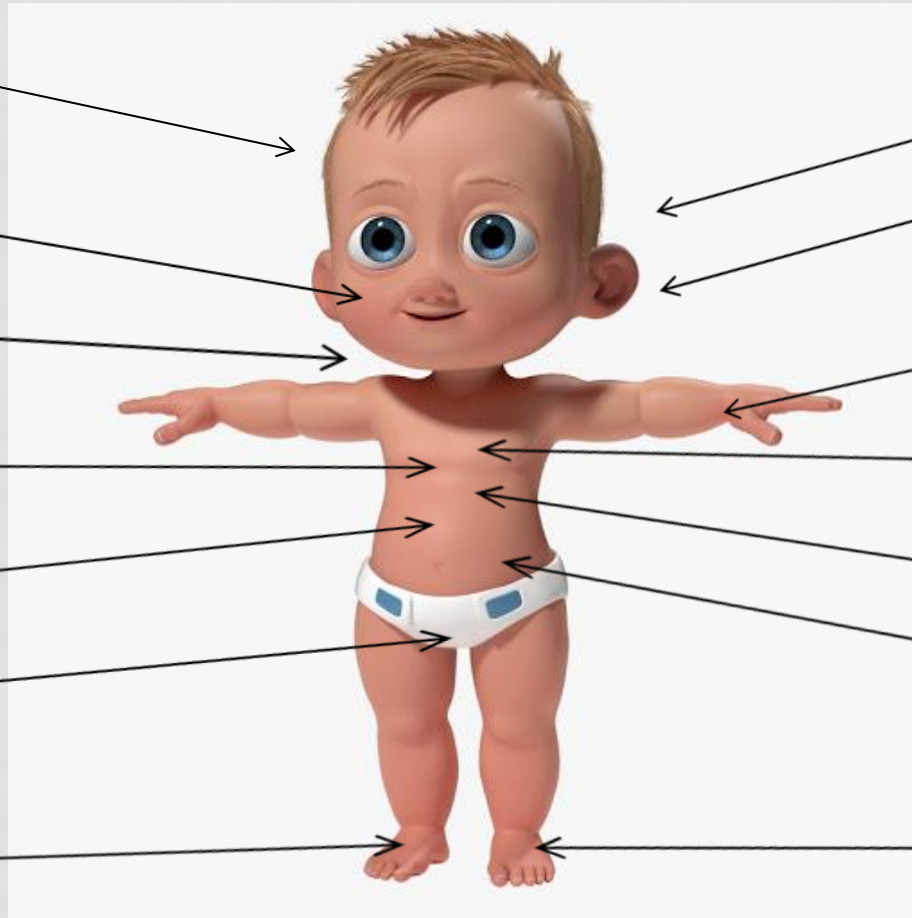
Central Venous
Catheter (CVC)

Pacing wires

Chest Drains

Urine catheter

Peripheral
cannula



Nasogastric tube

Endotracheal
Tube

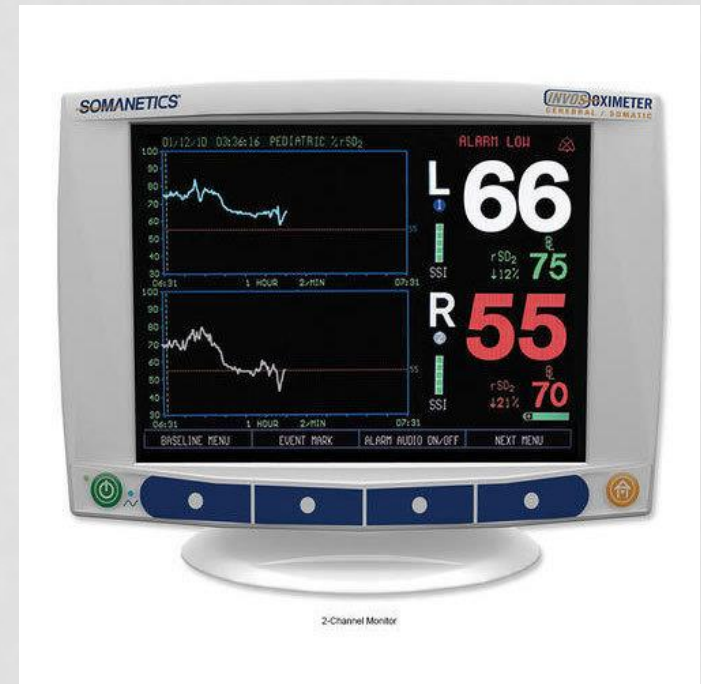
Arterial line

(Possible) direct
lines

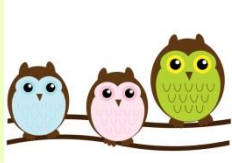
(possible open)
Sternal Wound

Peritoneal
dialysis catheter

Peripheral
saturations
monitoring



POST- OP PICU MONITORING



FAMILY CENTRED CARE

The parents and family will first be notified when they are leaving the operating theatre for PICU



They will be met by a member of the PICU team or the cardiac specialist nurses and taken to a family room on PICU



The family are always informed that it will take some time before they are able to visit the unit



Once the patient handover is complete the allocated nurse and surgeon will update the family before returning to the PICU



When the patient is safe and stable on PICU the family are welcome to visit

PICU VISITING POLICY

First 24 hours

Two named visitors only

No siblings (unless discussed prior to PICU admission)

> 24 hours

Family, siblings and friends able to visit but always advised to keep visiting to a minimum

24 hour open visiting for NOK

Other visitors will not be permitted without the presence of the NOK

They must inform the beside nurse if visitors will arrive without them

Only 2 visitors to a bed at one time

PICU will be closed to all but essential personnel if an invasive procedure is being performed on any patient

PICU and ward 23 operate a telephone password system. No information will be given without the password set by the NOK.

This includes other healthcare workers- you may be asked to provide your contact details so the nurse can identify who you are and call you back

PICU VISITING POLICY

... COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS:

- 2 allocated visitors**
- Only 1 visitor at the bed space at 1 time**
- No siblings**

**PATIENT SPECIFIC AND ALL EXTENUATING
CIRCUMSTANCES WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH THE IN
CHARGE AND MEDICAL TEAM**

A WEEK ON PICU

**STABILITY AND WEANING
CARDIORESPIRATORY SUPPORT**

A- AIRWAY

Care of the ET tube:

- Security of the ET Tube
- Tube position
- Patient positioning
- Minimum 4 hourly ET suction
- Pressure area care
- Cuff pressures
- Tube leak
- Dexamethasone



B- BREATHING

Titration of ventilation

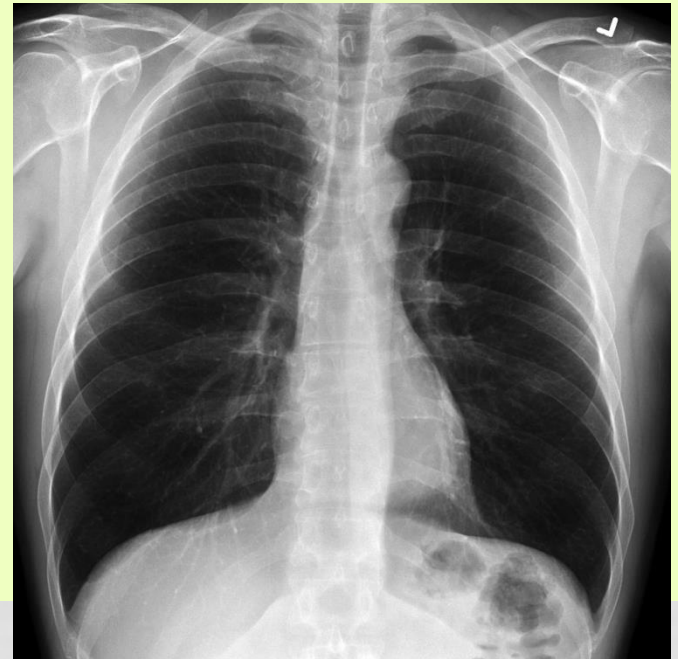
BIPAP → CPAP → VAPOTHERM/NIV → O₂

Respiratory considerations:

- Cardiopulmonary
- Anatomical
- Pulmonary hypertension- Nitric!

Routine Care:

- Suctioning
- Physiotherapy
- Infection



C- CIRCULATION

- Titration and weaning of inotropes
- Milrinone will often continue to be infused for a longer period
- Low Cardiac Output Syndrome (LCOS)
- Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (SIRS)
- Multi- organ dysfunction
- Coagulopathy and bleeding
- Anti-coagulation



PACING

A significant number of patients will have external pacing wires in situ

It is important that the team are aware of the patient's underlying rhythm

Some patients are completely dependent on external pacing!



FLUID MANAGEMENT

Input:

- IV Infusions
- IVABs and other medications
- IV maintenance fluids
- Feeds
- Invasive monitoring flushes
- Fluid resus boluses
- Blood products



Output:

- Urine
- Bowel management
- PD/ CVVHD dialysis
- Gastric losses
- Chest drainage
- Wound/ swabs



D- DISABILITY

- IV pain relief
- IV or oral sedation
- Muscle relaxants

Regular post- operative Neurological assessments!

Patients are at risk due to:

Coagulopathy

Poor heart function

Anatomical defects

Cardiac shunts

Hypoxia

Invasive lines

Anti-coagulation



1 mm



2 mm



3 mm



4 mm



5 mm



6 mm

E- EXPOSURE

Assessment of wounds:

- Sternal
- Invasive lines
- Chest drain sites
- Pacing wire sites

General appearance:

- Mottling
- Cyanosis
- Pale/ grey

Touch:

- Cool
- Clammy



THE PROLONGED PICU ADMISSION

**STABILISING TO SUPPORT TO
DISCHARGE**

THE PROLONGED PICU ADMISSION

This can be for many varying reasons:

- Poor heart function
- Patient specific complex physiology
- multi- organ failure
- On- going respiratory support
- Sepsis
- Low patient weight and poor 'reserve'



FAILURE TO 'WEAN'

Post operatively some patients require prolonged respiratory support due to:

- Poor heart function
- Cardiac defect physiology
- Fatigue
- Neurological issues
- Airway anatomy

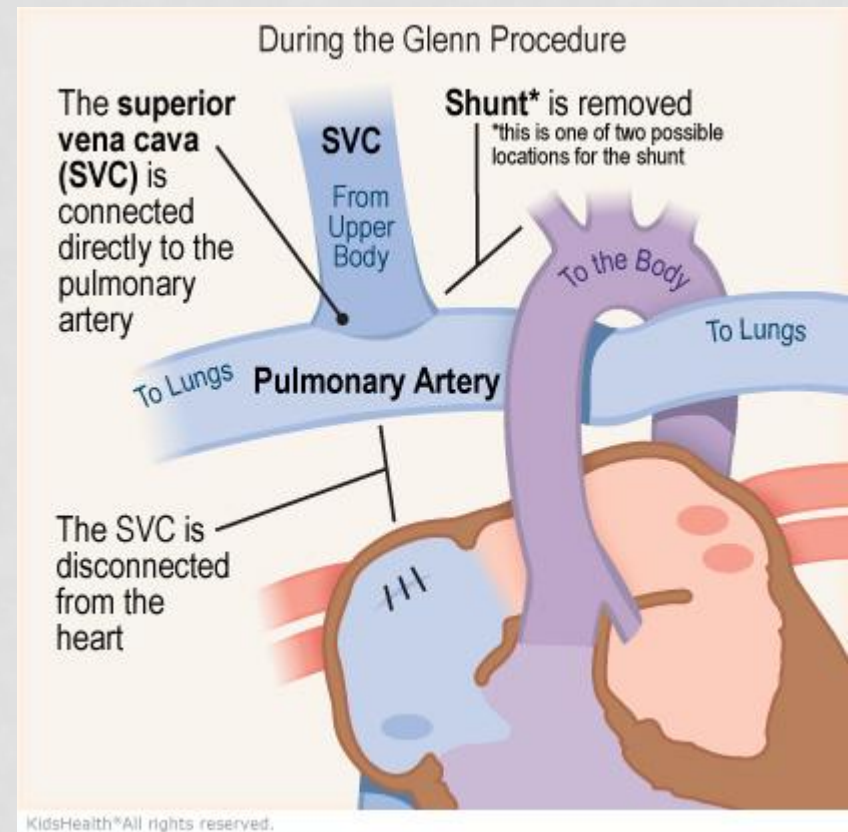


A number of these patients will require a tracheostomy to aid ventilation

PATIENT PHYSIOLOGY

Any imbalance of the natural cardiorespiratory pressures can compromise the success of the patient's post-operative cardiac circulation

These patients may require prolonged mechanical and medical support and for some additional surgical intervention may be necessary



MULTI- ORGAN FAILURE

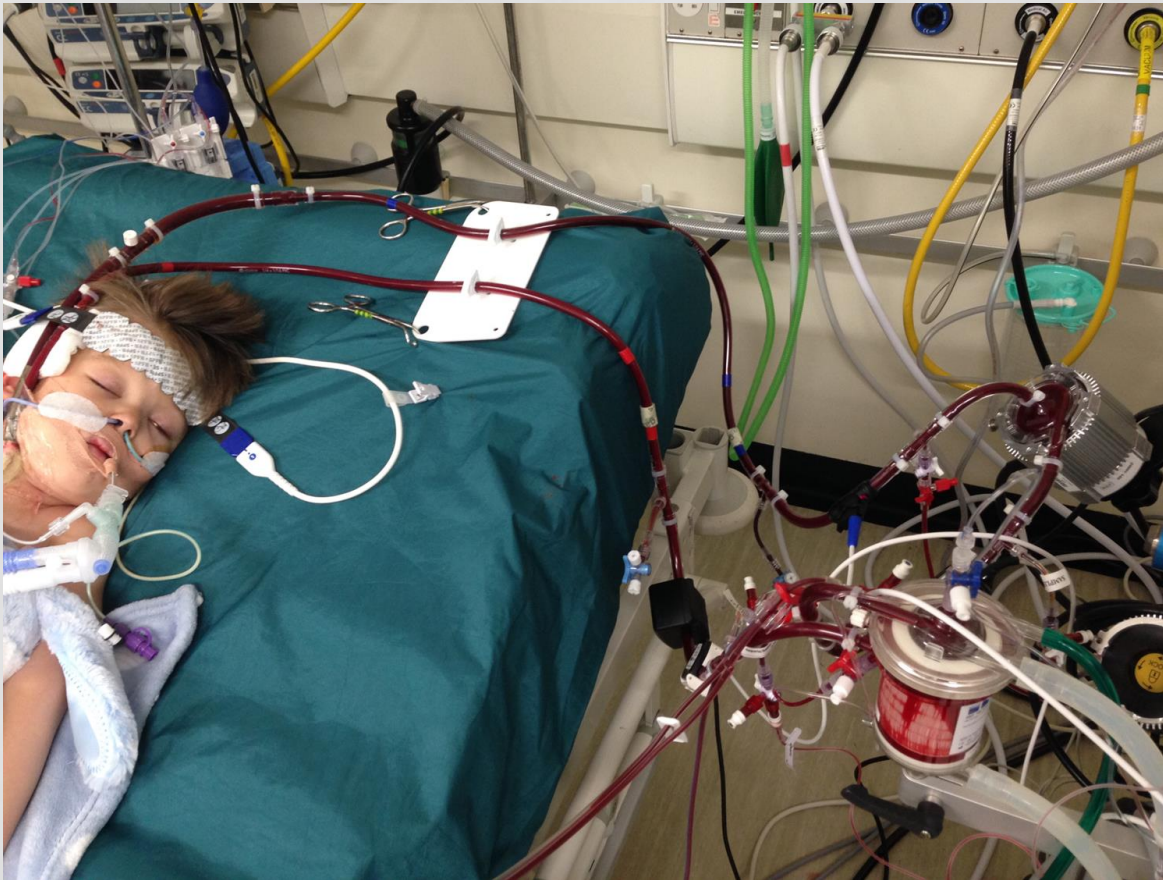
- Obstructive anomalies
- Heart Failure and LCOS
- Hypoxia
- Infarcts



- **Renal failure**
- **Necrotising Enterocolitis (NEC)**



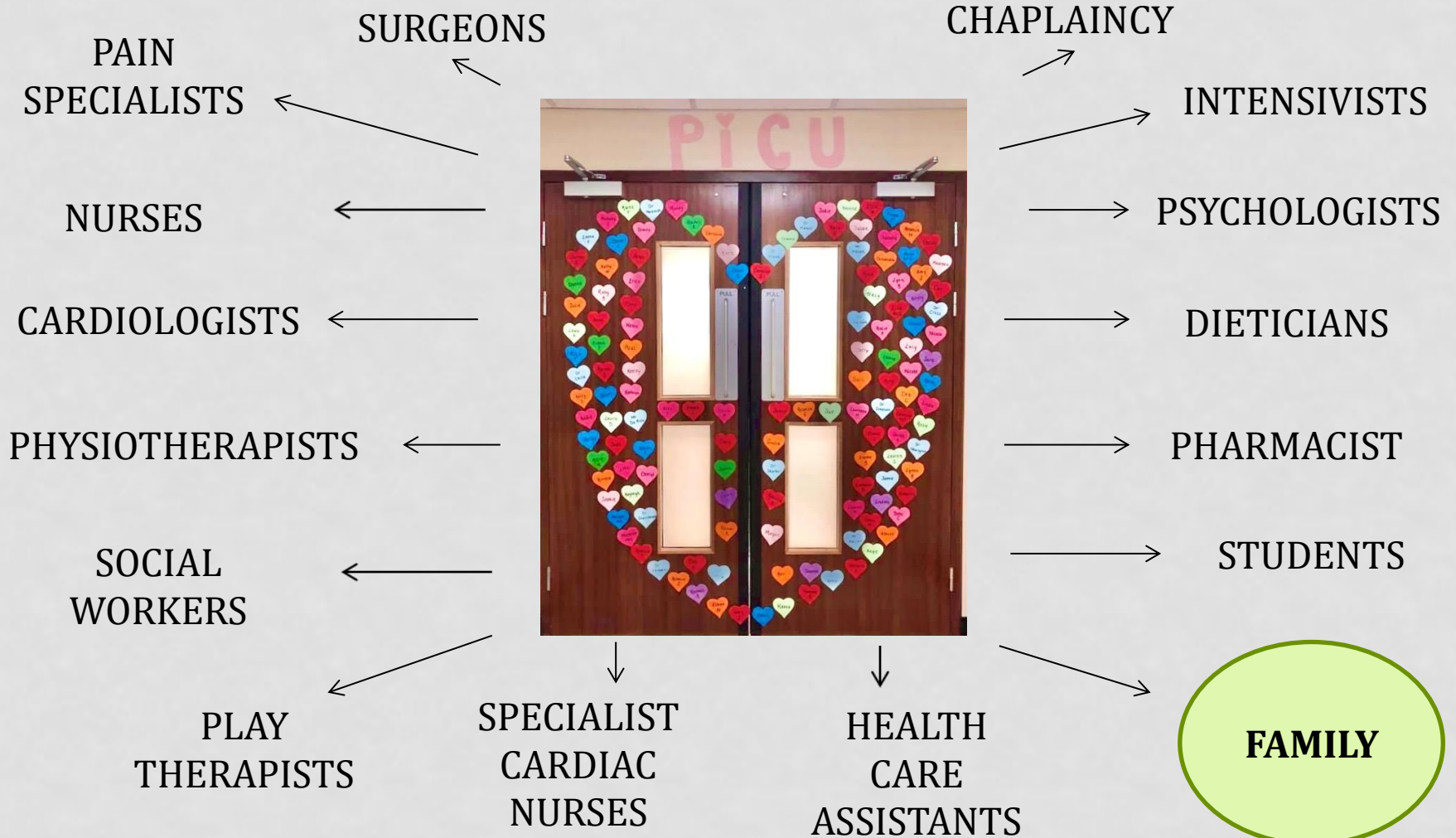
ECMO



Extra corporeal membrane oxygenation for:

- Failure to wean from bypass
- Severe heart failure and low cardiac output
- Severe SIRS response and instability
- Hypoxia
- ARDS
- ECPR

PICU TEAM!



THANK YOU!