

24-Hour Block of Care on the Pediatric Ventilator Unit

What is a 24-hour block of care?

A 24-hour block of care (also called “leave on pass,” or LOP) is an independent care experience to give both caregivers the chance to take care of your child in an unsupervised but supportive environment. Sometimes this is done at the bedside, and sometimes it is done away from the unit at the Med Inn.

What do I need to do before a 24-hour block of care?

- ☐ Arrange childcare for any other children you have (if necessary).
- ☐ Meet with respiratory staff to check equipment and supplies.
- ☐ Meet with nursing staff:
 - Review the 24-hour care plan.
 - Keep a copy of the 24-hour care plan to take with you during your block of care.

What is the schedule for the day of my 24-hour block of care?

- Arrive at the hospital an hour before the start time of your 24-hour block of care (which typically starts around 9:00 AM).
- Review all medications and respiratory medications with your nurse and respiratory therapist.
- Review all medical equipment and supplies, including:
 - Hospital (bedside) ventilator (humidifier set up with power cord)
 - Your own portable ventilator and power cord
 - Loaner or home nebulizer machine (if needed) and power cord
 - Portable suction machine and power cord
 - Loaner oxygen concentrator (if needed) and power cord
 - Your own saturation monitor and probe and power cord
 - Loaner power strip with surge protector (if you are leaving the unit)

Pediatric Ventilator Unit (PVU)

- Portable crib provided by 12 West Pediatric Ventilator Unit (12W/PVU) (if you are leaving the unit)
- Home therapy vest/cough assist if needed (with power cords)
- Loaner or hospital feeding pump and bags (with power cord and formula)
- Tracheostomy “go bag” with all emergency supplies
- Remember to bring the other supplies you need, including diapers, trach care supplies, suction catheters, clothes, bottles, baby food, etc.

If you are staying bedside for your 24-hour block of care:

- There will be a sign on your door to remind staff that you are completing your 24-hour block of care.
- We expect that you will independently provide all care during the 24-hour block of care, without staff support or supervision.
- One trained caregiver must be awake, alert, and attentive for the full 24 hours (you may take turns sleeping overnight).
- At no time should you or the child leave the medical campus. If you have questions about boundaries, please ask the 12W/PVU staff.
- If there is an emergency that you cannot handle on your own, ask the 12W/PVU staff to help you.
- You may call out to 12W/PVU staff if you need any supplies.
- You may call out to 12W/PVU staff for technical problems with the ventilator or any other equipment.

If you are going to the Med Inn for your 24-hour block of care:

- Check in at Med Inn is usually between 12:00-3:00 PM. Check out is at 11:00 AM. You will most likely begin and end your 24-hour block of care in your 12W/PVU room.
- We expect that you will independently provide all care during the 24-hour block of care.

- You are expected to move all supplies and set up the hotel room while always keeping 1 caregiver with the child.
- One trained caregiver must be awake, alert, and attentive the full 24 hours (you may take turns sleeping overnight).
- At no time should you or the child leave the medical campus. If you have questions about boundaries, please ask your 12W/PVU staff.
- If you have problems with the ventilator or any other equipment, call the 12W/PVU charge nurse at (734) 803-1322. They can contact the respiratory therapist if necessary.
- **If there is an emergency, call 911 and mention your room number: “I am in the Med Inn, room number ____.”**
- If there are problems with the Med Inn room, call (734) 936-0100 or dial 0 from the room.
- If you have forgotten any supplies, you may return to 12W/PVU to collect them.

Please remember: 12W/PVU staff cannot come to the Med Inn to help you.

What are some helpful tips for a successful 24-hour block of care?

- The standard of care for a child with a tracheostomy and ventilator is that 1 person must be **awake, alert, and attentive** at all times.
 - Try to get enough sleep the night before.
 - Do not try to stay up for the full 24 hours. The 2 of you will have to trade off sleeping and staying awake. You will want to be well-rested enough to provide emergency care if necessary.
- The room can get very warm with all the equipment, so dress in layers.

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by University of Michigan (U-M) Health for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by U-M Health and for which U-M Health does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition, or your treatment plan.

Author: Sarah Brennan, BSN RN CNML CPN

Reviewers: Courtney Meagher, BSN RN CPN, Rachel Gurtowski, MSN RN CPNP

Edited by: Brittany Batell, MPH MSW, Karelyn Munro, BA

Patient Education by [U-M Health](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International Public License](#). Last revised 03/2024