

12-Hour Block of Care on the Pediatric Ventilator Unit

What is a 12-hour block of care?

The purpose of the 12-hour block of care is to have the 2 primary caregivers practice the education and care that they have learned. This is one more step to help prepare for a safe discharge home. The 12-hour block of care is done at the bedside. Nursing and respiratory therapy staff are available to help, educate, and answer questions that you may have.

What are caregivers expected to do?

- Both caregivers must complete the block of care from 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM.
- The block of care typically begins at 9:00 AM and finishes at 9:00 PM.
- We will provide you with a 24-hour care plan that you will follow. The care plan has the times for your child's medications, respiratory treatments, therapies, and daily care activities (we call these "cares").
- Caregivers will:
 - Follow the care plan and do all daily cares.
 - Ask for and give medications when it is time.
 - Ask for and give all respiratory treatments when they are scheduled.
 - Take your child to any therapies they have.
 - Respond to all alarms.
- You will take your child for a walk independently (without staff supervision) at some time during the 12 hours.
- One caregiver must be awake, alert, and attentive for the full 12 hours.
- You are encouraged to ask questions at any time during the 12 hours.
- Review with your nurse how you feel the 12-hour block of care went. What went well? What do you need more practice with?

What are staff expected to do?

- Your child's nurse practitioner will create the care plan and provide you and nursing staff with a copy.
- Your child's nurse will review the care plan with you before the 12-hour block of care begins. During the block of care, they will:
 - Bring medications when you ask for them.
 - Take your child's vital signs and do a physical assessment.
 - Do their usual emergency checks.
 - Document food and fluid intake and output.
 - Review how you felt the 12-hour block of care went and write a note in the patient's chart.
- Your child's respiratory therapist will provide the respiratory medications when you ask for them, watch all respiratory therapy that you do and record the information in your child's chart, and do emergency checks.

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