Visiting your loved one at the Intensive Care Unit







Welcome to the University of Michigan Health System





The Intensive Care Unit is the place in the hospital where your loved one is staying.





Here we help people that need special hospital care for their bodies when they are sick.





When you visit the Intensive Care Unit, you may see many different hospital machines and hear many special hospital sounds.







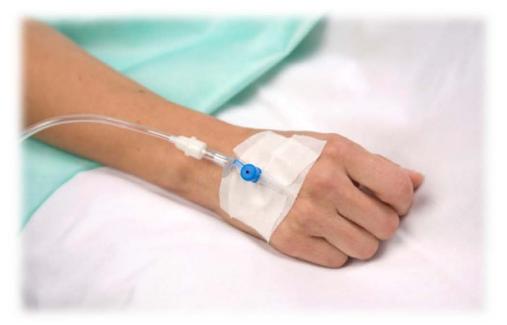
Your loved one may be getting their medicine and food through a special device called an I-V.





I-Vs are like tiny straws that go in the skin when someone needs medicine or a drink quickly. It can even give a drink while a person is

sleeping.





Every patient here has a monitor that checks his heart and breathing.





Your loved one may also have a machine called a ventilator that helps him breathe.





Sometimes these machines beep or honk to let the nurses know we need to check on something. Different sounds gives us different messages.



Sometimes it can get noisy in here!



Your loved one may look a little different than he or she normally does at home.

He may have a bandage on his head, or she may look tired.





He may have tubes in his nose, mouth, or arms



We also have many people here to take care of all our patients, including your loved one.

Sometimes it can get very crowded in here!







When you visit, you can touch your loved one.





You can talk to him and tell him you love and miss him.





Or you can sit quietly and hold her hand for a few minutes.







It's okay to be unsure about going to visit your loved one; sometimes new things are scary.



But remember that underneath the tubes and machines is the same person you know and love so well.









When you are visiting, please feel free to ask the nurses or your family any questions that you have.



We hope you have a comfortable visit and look forward to meeting you!





Thank You for Reading

Author: Julie Boyer Hanley, MSN, RN

Reviewers: Julie Piazza, MS, CCLS,

Ruti Volk, MSI, AHIP

Last revised: September 2012

Disclaimer: This document is for informational purposes only and is not intended to take the place of the care and attention of your personal physician or other professional medical services. Talk with your doctor if you have Questions about individual health concerns or specific treatment options.



Photo Credits

- Stockbyte/George Doyle/Thinkstock, slide 1
- Comstock/Jupiterimages/Getty Images/Thinkstock, slide 1
- Thinkstock Images/Comstock/Thinkstock/©Getty Images, slide 5
- iStockphoto/Thinkstock, slides 5, 6, 7, 9, 13, 15, 16, 17
- BananaStock/BananaStock/Thinkstock, slide 11
- Monkey Business/Thinkstock, slide 11
- Photodisc/Photodisc/Thinkstock, slide 14, 17





UMHS patient education content is licensed under a <u>Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License</u>. Thinkstock images in this resource are licensed for use solely by the University of Michigan. Other uses such as republication, retransmission, and reproduction are not allowed.