

UNDERSTANDING YOUR NEUROSCIENCES INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (NSICU) TEAM

A GUIDE TO HELP PATIENTS AND FAMILIES NAVIGATE THEIR CARE

The Neurotrauma Team brings together specialists from emergency care, surgery, nursing and other support areas to assess and care for patients.

GLOSSARY OF NEUROTRAUMA TEAM:

Neurocritical Care Physician: Treats patients admitted to the hospital in a critical state after a traumatic event affecting the brain, spine or nervous system.

Neurosurgeon: Performs brain, spinal cord and nervous system surgery.

Neurologist: Diagnoses neurological conditions (brain, spinal cord, nerves) that can be corrected via medications or other therapies (e.g. seizures). They do not perform surgery.

Pulmonologist: Treats breathing problems.

Orthopaedic Surgeon: Performs surgery on broken or injured bones.

Trauma Surgeon: Performs surgery on the neck, chest, abdomen and extremities.

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) Physician: Helps restore physical function and overall quality of life for a person who has been disabled because of a disease, disorder or injury.

Advanced Practice Providers (APPs): A provider, either a Physician Assistant (PA) or Nurse Practitioner (NP), who is not a physician but performs medical activities typically performed by a physician.

Nurses: Assist with patient care and can specialize in any of the listed areas. Their credentials can be Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Registered Nurse (RN) or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN).

Therapist (Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Respiratory Therapist and/or Speech Therapist): Trained in methods of treatment and rehabilitation other than the use of prescriptions or surgery.

Social Workers/Case Managers: Coordinates the transition to rehabilitation facilities or home, including transportation.

Infectious Disease Physician: Works on eliminating infections that may result from a surgery or hospital stay.

UC Medical Center is a teaching hospital, meaning you will likely interact with physicians or students who are learning under the supervision of an Attending Physician. Below are the levels you may encounter, starting with the most senior physician:

- Attending
- Fellow
- Resident
- Intern
- Medical Student



Contact
UC Health Neurotrauma Team
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Discover more about our
neurotrauma program



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YOUR PROVIDERS MIGHT INCLUDE:	TYPES OF QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE:	NOTES: (Important dates, phone numbers, etc.)
Neurocritical Care Physician:	Length of stay in NSICU Care after the hospital	
Neurosurgeon:	Understanding my diagnosis, surgery and recovery	
Neurologist:	Understanding possible risks, such as seizure Understanding therapies or medications	
Pulmonologist:	Breathing conditions I may experience Breathing support tools	
Orthopaedic Surgeon:	Understanding my diagnosis, surgery and recovery Understanding treatment options, noninvasive and surgical	
Trauma Surgeon:	Navigating the immediate trauma Understanding recovery process	
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Physician:	Understanding therapies to address emotional and mental recovery Treatment and ways to handle pain and discomfort	
Nurses:	Clarifications about doctors' statements and post-discharge care plans What to expect each day	
Therapist (Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Respiratory Therapist and/or Speech Therapist):	Length of therapy Continuing progress after the therapy session	
Social Workers/Case Managers:	Access to TBI-specific rehab facilities in my area and which facilities allow for direct follow-up by my UC Health providers Placement or home care support after hospital	
Infectious Disease Physician:	Understanding the infection and treatment course Future infection prevention	
Others: <i>This list is meant to represent potential healthcare team members that patients, their families and friends may encounter while in the NSICU. Care teams vary from patient to patient.</i>		