

Welcome to the Surgical Trauma Intensive Care Unit (STICU)

Welcome to the STICU at the Medical University of South Carolina. The STICU is a special healing environment for patients who require critical and advanced care.

Our goal is to give you access to your loved one in this time of need as much as we possibly can. We understand that the healing process will include the love and support from you ---the family!

One of the first things we will ask you to do is to choose **one family spokesperson, to be the contact person between the nursing staff, family and friends.** The family spokesperson will help by:

- **Taking phone calls** regarding the patient's condition.
- Working with us to plan **individual visiting guidelines** for that patient.
- This **partnership** will allow the family best access to the patient---and more important, support the patient by including the family as part of the **caregiver team** with us.

The spokesperson will be given a 'code', which is a number. This code is used to protect the privacy of our patients.

Your code # is:

STICU phone numbers:

Beds 1-12: 843-792-3381

Beds 14-18: 843-792-9517

If you are away from the STICU and would like to check on your loved one, please call one of the numbers listed above, and provide your code number. Please do not share the code with anyone outside your family.

If possible, it is best if the family spokesperson calls for updates, and shares those with family and friends.

Visiting in the STICU

We welcome family members in the unit, and value your participation.

The STICU visiting hours are flexible, to meet the needs of our patients and families. There are some times when we may need to restrict your ability to visit your family member, but those times will be limited. For

the safety and care of all patients, we ask that you please follow these guidelines:

- Please wash your hands or use hand sanitizer every time you enter and leave your loved one's room.
- Visitors should be at least 14 years old.
- Please do not eat, drink or sleep in the patient rooms.
- Please do not talk on cell phones in the patient rooms.
- If your loved one is on 'isolation', please ask the nurse to learn what special rules may apply.
- We may ask visitors to step out of the patient's room when a medical procedure is done. This is for patient safety and privacy.
- We limit family & visitors in patient rooms during change of shift: between 7am-8am and 7pm-8pm. The caregivers need to share clear and accurate information with one another that is essential for the care of patients.
- To promote a healing environment, we try to provide a 'quiet time' each day from 2-4 am and pm. Please help us support this.
- Please take patient belongings and valuables home for safekeeping.

The STICU Healthcare Team

Our STICU team includes physicians, registered nurses, respiratory therapists, pharmacists, patient care technicians and unit secretaries.

In addition, a variety of specialists may also help care for your loved one including physical, occupational and speech therapists, dieticians, case managers and social workers. We offer chaplain, interpreter and patient liaison services as well. Our chapel is also open at all times.

As a family member, you are part of the team too and we welcome your input and participation.

Uniform colors can help you identify staff:

Registered nurse: *blue and white*

Patient care technicians: *black*

Respiratory therapists: *blue-green*

Unit secretary: *teal blue jackets over regular clothing*

Physician Rounding:

Physician rounding usually occurs between 9am-1pm. Physicians are available to speak with you during and after these times.

Take Care of Yourself

Your loved one is in good hands at MUSC. Our specially trained nurses and staff deliver excellent care. Most nurses are assigned to two patients at a time. Sometimes a nurse may have just one patient, based on the needs of the patient.

We understand that you wish to spend time with your loved one and we welcome your presence. It may be hard for you to leave, but it is important that you remain healthy and rested too, as your support and caring are essential to your loved one.



Surgical Trauma Intensive Care Unit (STICU)

Guide to STICU Services

Manager:

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