Enhanced Critical Care

Enhanced Critical Care is an electronic intensive care unit designed to improve care and shorten hospital stays.

In addition to the providers who care for patients locally, critical care patients throughout Mayo Clinic Health System are monitored remotely by specially trained critical care physicians and nurses working at an operations center at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

Enhanced Critical Care brings Mayo Clinic intensive care to a Mayo Clinic Health System hospital in your area.
How it works
In-room computers, high quality video cameras and audio monitors transmit data including vital signs, test results and imaging exams from patients’ bedsides to an operations center located in Rochester, Minn. There, a team of physicians and nurses continuously reviews the information to watch for small changes that could mean potential problems for patients. When a change is detected, the team alerts local staff so they can address the problem. High definition televisions and video cameras allow operations center staff to communicate with local staff, patients and their families.

Leading your care
Local physicians and nurses continue to care for patients as they always have. A local physician directs each patient’s care. Enhanced Critical Care providers supplement, rather than replace, this care. Local and operations center staff work as a team to provide the best care possible.

Benefits of Enhanced Critical Care
Enhanced Critical Care is like having an extra set of eyes watching each patient at all times. That means changes in a patient’s condition can be identified and managed quickly. Patients may experience one or more of the following program benefits:

• Shorter hospital stays
• Improved patient results
• Fewer transfers to other facilities
• Higher level of care close to home
• Improved patient and family satisfaction
• Reduced cost of care

Patient privacy
Patient information is always kept secure and confidential. The technology used provides the highest level of electronic data security.

Patients and their families will be alerted when the in-room camera is going to be turned on. When activated, the camera moves from pointing away to pointing at the patient’s bed. An operations center doctor or nurse will appear on the monitor. There will also be an audio signal between 4 a.m. and 11 p.m.

The audio and video systems provide real-time interaction only and cannot record video or audio from a patient’s room.

Cost
Enhanced Critical Care services are provided at no additional cost to patients at all participating Mayo Clinic Health System hospitals. In fact, this type of remote monitoring service is often associated with lower costs due to shorter hospital stays and fewer complications.

Questions
Please talk with any staff member if you have any questions or concerns about Enhanced Critical Care.