

FAMILY & FRIENDS: PARTICIPATION

There are many things you can do to contribute to the care and comfort of your loved one. As a part of the care team you can:

- Talk to him or her as you normally would, touch or hold their hand.
- Help with daily activities such as dressing and bathing.
- Tell the staff about his or her interests, hobbies, or activities.
- Bring in pillows, robes, books, movies, music, radios and pictures to help your loved one pass the time.
- Be encouraging!
- Be a cheerleader!



Services Available:
Gift Shop
Cafeteria
Coffee Shop
Chaplain
Parking

VISITING

Visitors are important to patient recovery, so we try to keep open and flexible visiting hours.

While visiting:

- Always wash your hands before and after visits.
- Please use the phone in the waiting room to call before entering PWU.
- No more than two visitors per patient at a time.
- Please be patient as you may be asked to delay your visit. Certain times of day are very busy, especially during shift change (7:30 am-8:30 am and 7:30pm-8:30 pm) or patient care rounds (9-10 am on weekdays).

Patient enquiries:

- Please choose one family member to be the spokesperson who makes telephone enquiries. Staff are happy to speak to family members, but too many phone calls can disturb patient care.



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FHA PROGRESSIVE WEANING UNIT PWU

A two bed unit dedicated to the reversal of ventilator dependence and enhancement of the patient's quality of life.

24-hour inter-disciplinary,
patient-centered care.



PWU

Located on 3A/ CCU
Burnaby Hospital
3935 Kincaid Street
Burnaby, BC
V5G 2X6

Tel: 604-412-6289
Fax: 604-412-6283

WELCOME TO PWU



Why the PWU?

After a difficult illness or injury your loved one has become dependent on technology to provide for the most basic of needs; breathing. Now that he or she is more stable, it is time to focus on recovery and rehabilitation.

At Burnaby Hospital's PWU, the staff will work with the patient and care givers to reverse the need for a breathing machine (ventilator).

What is weaning?

Weaning is the process of getting the patient to breathe without the ventilator, in a planned, step-wise, fashion. Sometimes weaning happens quickly (over hours) and sometimes slowly (over days or weeks, even months).

The PWU team.

The PWU team is a group of highly skilled and experienced doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, physiotherapists, dietitians, social workers, pharmacists and other specialized staff.

Getting started.

Upon admission the patient will be fully assessed to determine readiness for weaning. During this time the patient, family and staff will work together to discuss the patient's needs and to help develop the care plan. The care plan will include direction on the patient's nutritional requirements and daily activities. The focus of care will be to improve the patient's strength and mobility, and to support the weaning process.

The weaning process.

Once the patient is deemed ready, the weaning process will begin, usually within the first 24-48 hours. The weaning process is a planned, step-wise progression to allow the patient to do more of their own breathing. This may occur either on the ventilator or off, depending on the patient's needs.

Alarms, alerts, and warnings

During weaning trials the patient is closely checked for such things as anxiety, shortness of breath, and pain. Bedside monitors may be used to keep track of heart rate, blood pressure, and oxygen levels.

Why is she/he back on a ventilator?

Resting is also an important part of the healing process. To prevent exhaustion, the patient may be put back on the ventilator to rest, especially at the beginning, and may be on the ventilator to rest overnight.

Further attempts at weaning may be made later that day or the next.

Daily routines

The PWU team is dedicated to helping your loved one regain independence and improve their quality of life.

After a few days some routines will emerge. These include activities such as physiotherapy, walks, and periods of rest. The team fits these routines to the patient's interests and abilities.

When time and staffing permits, trips outside the PWU will be arranged.

After the PWU

Patients return home or to their referring hospital once they are successfully weaned from the ventilator. If they are unable to wean they are returned to the original hospital or one closer to home. Some patients may require a tracheostomy on an on-going basis or even home ventilation.