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# Queensland Paediatric Critical Care Pathway Project (PCCP)

Initiative Type

Model of Care

Status

Plan

Added

19 March 2019

Last updated

13 March 2025

URL

<https://test.clinicalexcellence.qld.gov.au/improvement-exchange/queensland-paediatric-critical-care-pathway-project-pccp>

## Summary

The Queensland Paediatric Critical Care Pathway (PCCP) project is a multi-year project, with the first year focused on diagnostics and solutions design. The project's key outcome for phase 1 is to develop a defined and prioritised set of solutions for the provision of statewide paediatric critical care and transport over the next five to ten years with a focus on equity and consistency in access,

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capacity, capability and quality. Subsequent years will focus on implementation.

## Key dates

Apr 2018

Jun 2022

## Partnerships

Interdependent projects include: Statewide Emergency Care of Children (SWECC), Statewide Paediatric Sepsis Pathway (SPSP), Paediatric Patient Safety Review

## Key Contacts

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## Aim

The purpose of the PCCP is for critically unwell children and their families in our state, and its catchment, to receive the best possible experience and outcome.

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## Benefits

The benefits of the PCCP project can be categorised as follows;

- **Quality and safety** – clinical governance for statewide paediatric critical care and transport.
- **Child and family experience** – certainty for best care as close to home as possible.
- **Staff engagement** – collaborative network for delivery of visions, strategies and operational plans.
- **Service improvement** – equitable, reliable and effective clinical practice and pathways.
- **Financial** – efficiency through care at the right time and place.
- **Service integration** – consistency and continuity of paediatric critical care across health service boundaries.

## Background

- There is increased demand on care for the critically unwell child driven by population growth with changing key demographics and socio-economic indicators, consumer expectations, and improved technology.
- There is an over-representation in the reported SAC1 Clinical Incidents in children from rural and remote Queensland as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
- Recent coronial inquests have identified gaps in the provision of quality care for critically unwell children.
- There is excess infant and early childhood mortality in Queensland that could possibly be favourably influenced by reduced variability and inequity in the provision of care for critically unwell children.
- There is no mandated reporting against core clinical indicators for the provision of paediatric critical care, and therefore there is no overarching surveillance to detect variation in care.
- Concerns raised regarding shortfalls in standardised clinical coordination for transport of critically unwell children across the state.
- Variability in paediatric expertise and skills at some facilities therefore there can be variable access to senior paediatric medical input in a timely manner for critically unwell children.
- Concerns have been raised around the Clinical Service Capability Framework (CSCF) 'Intensive Care – Child' module; it has not been reviewed in recent years.
- There is significant risk associated with an overreliance on strictly centralised paediatric critical care resulting in transport capacity issues, bed block at the highest-level facility, disconnection of families from home and communities, and resources inefficiencies.

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## Solutions Implemented

The PCCP solutions design workshop was held on 30th April, 2019 and the endorsed solutions design report followed thereafter. Solutions / “quick wins” implemented to date:

- commenced development of a family information pack with essential information for families when their critically ill child is retrieved
- pre-transport checklist – to be re-issued and made more widely available
- developing a process for discharge summaries from PICU CHQ to be placed on iEMR / EDS viewers with the link to be emailed to referring site
- ‘Statewide Paediatric Critical Care Case Discussion’ monthly forum for interested HHSs, hospitals and groups in Queensland. Contact: [CHQ\\_PCC\\_GrandRounds@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:CHQ_PCC_GrandRounds@health.qld.gov.au)
- drug libraries for Alaris and Braun smart pumps will be available from CHQ - contact Michelle Cree: [Michele.Cree@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Michele.Cree@health.qld.gov.au)
- agreement for a single contact point for Paediatric Critical Care Units for clinicians at referring sites to follow up critically ill children.

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