

ICU Factsheet

July, 1976

The Problem

Mount Auburn Hospital's ICU was opened 10 years ago as a response to the increasingly complicated surgical procedures being performed. Currently the Hospital operates a 7-bed medical-surgical unit under the direction of Dr. Robert Littlehale, an Intensive Care specialist.

The unit is plagued by a variety of physical inadequacies which tax both patient and staff. The most pronounced problem is lack of physical space. Although the unit is licensed for 9-beds, the amount of available floor space and the volume of machines needed to treat critically ill patients makes it impossible to treat more than seven patients at any one time.

The unit is in violation of many state and federal regulations governing ICUs. Sanitary procedures cannot be adequately followed. Noise and overcrowding make patient rest and privacy impossible.

Many patients requiring intensive care must be turned away for lack of available beds. Others in need of internal care are not admitted because the noise and bustle of the ICU would be too detrimental to their recovery.

The patient who enters Mount Auburn Hospital's ICU gets the most sophisticated intensive care available under present conditions. But a modern, quiet, spacious Intensive Care Unit would provide the critically ill patient with rest and privacy while enabling the staff to deliver the same excellent care to all who require ICU admission.

The Solution

The present ICU cannot be expanded or usefully renovated at its present location. Therefore, Mount Auburn plans to construct a larger multidisciplinary ICU near the Operating Room, Recovery Room, Accident Room, X-Ray and Lab. The inter-relationship of these areas will allow for maximum intensive care in a minimum of time. The hazards of transportation from the Operating Room, Recovery Room and Accident Room to the ICU are reduced. More constant monitoring is possible through immediate access to Lab and X-Ray. A semi-circular room housing the critical care beds will permit greater visibility and consequently, better patient supervision. Patients will be provided with the privacy and quiet they need to facilitate recovery.



MOUNT AUBURN HOSPITAL / 330 MCUNT AUBURN STREET / CAMBRIDGE / MASSACHUSETTS / 02138 / TEL: (617) 492-3500

Walter P. Allen, F.A.C.H.A.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July 27, 1976

Dear Friend,

Mount Auburn Hospital is preparing a Certificate of Need application for a new Intensive Care Unit (ICU). This will replace a unit which can no longer accomodate the number of critically ill patients in need of intensive care.

You are cordially invited to attend a presentation and discussion of our proposed ICU on August 11th at 7:30 P.M. in Conference Room B of Wyman House. The attached ICU Factsheet is a detailed description of the project.

We want to be responsive to the medical needs of the community we serve. The quality and sophistication of medical services at Mount Auburn are closely related to the Intensive Care Unit's ability to care for extremely sick patients. Therefore, we welcome your comments and suggestions concerning our ICU project.

I look forward to seeing you at the presentation on August 11th. If you have any questions, please contact Harriet Oleffe at extension 301.

Sincerely,

Walter P. Allen
Executive Director

WPA:h
Enclosure

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Comm. from Walter P. Allen, Executive Director, Mount Auburn Hospital, re: to a new intensive care unit for the hospital.

In City Council,

~~Aug. 30, 1976~~

September 13, 1976

Placed on File -