

Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health | Clinical Center
Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Critical Care Medicine Department

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, invites outstanding Pediatric Intensivist Physicians to apply for the position of Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) Director in the Clinical Center Critical Care Medicine Department (CCMD). The NIH Clinical Center (CC) is the largest hospital in the world totally dedicated to clinical and translational research. The hospital maintains a 200-bed capacity supporting the intramural research programs of Institutes and Centers across the NIH. The hospital provides care to an extensive range of patients who are research participants with long-standing relationships with their research teams.

The NIH Clinical Center is the nation's leading clinical research hospital. It has a special role in the federal government because it combines patient care with medical research. Here, care teams and scientists develop and test new treatments to help improve people's health.

NIH is launching a dedicated pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) that will be staffed and equipped to provide care for children, including infants and toddlers, with complex medical conditions. The unit will incorporate pediatric intensivists, expanded equipment, renovated clinical space, and enhanced pediatric subspecialty coverage. This effort represents a major expansion of NIH's clinical research infrastructure.

A dedicated PICU will improve safety, monitoring, and continuity of care for pediatric patients at higher clinical risk. It will reduce the need for potentially risky transfers to outside hospitals and ensure that infants, toddlers, and critically ill children can receive specialized care within NIH's clinical environment. This capability is especially important for children participating in complex research studies or receiving investigational therapies that require intensive monitoring and quick access to pediatric expertise.

The PICU will also strengthen NIH's ability to conduct pediatric research that previously could not be safely supported in the NIH Clinical Center. It will expand capacity for early-phase and first-in-child studies, support clinical trials for rare diseases and other higher-risk conditions and improve NIH's ability to partner with pediatric care centers nationally.

This new resource aligns with NIH's vision for pediatric research by embedding child health across NIH programs, addressing historic gaps in pediatric recruitment and eligibility, and ensuring that major NIH initiatives systematically consider the needs of young children.

Why this role is distinctive

- Clinical research is at the center of the NIH mission.
- Clinical staff at the Clinical Center have unique opportunities for professional development enabling them to become national leaders in developing optimal clinical management and innovative diagnostic, preventive, and therapeutic approaches.
- The director of this unit will have the opportunity to build a program where none existed before and to guide its development and growth into a nationally prominent academic department

What the Director, PICU will lead

As Director, you will lead the team of providers that delivers outstanding care to Clinical Center patients and advances the field of pediatric critical care

- A team of physicians, mid-level providers and support staff that will enable high-quality care and training.
- Professional staff that will provide direct patient care for all pediatric patients requiring critical care or emergency services 24 hours per day, 365 days per year

The ideal candidate

The successful candidate will bring demonstrated executive leadership, strong communication skills, and the ability to lead collaboratively across a complex clinical research environment. Competitive candidates will have:

- Experience in managing complex pediatric critical care patients in an academic setting.
- Experience in recruiting physicians and mid-level providers
- Interest in training health care providers at all levels including physicians training in pediatric critical care medicine
- Excellent management and interpersonal skills
- Strong communication skills

Benefits, location, and application

Salary is commensurate with experience and accomplishments. A full Civil Service package of benefits is available, including retirement, health, life, and long-term care insurance and the Thrift Savings Plan. The position is located at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. All applicants will be subject to a background investigation.

Applications must be submitted through USAJOBS: <https://www.usajobs.gov/> to job announcement number NIH-GR-DH-27-13067959

Applications will be accepted from **Wednesday, October 14, 2026 to Friday, October 23, 2026**. Please include a cover letter outlining your interest in the position and your vision for the PICU. In your 2-page CV, include a brief description of your duties, prior appointments, and mentoring experience. For questions, please contact Jared Welsh at (301) 402-3017, jared.welsh@nih.gov, Harvey Parris at (301) 443-5758, harvey.parris@nih.gov, and Keith Bordelon at (301) 827-0665, keith.bordelon@nih.gov.

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