

SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE CLINICAL SERVICES

**Complete physician services
for complex surgical patients
in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU)**

A guide for patients and their families.



SAINT FRANCIS

Hospital and Medical Center

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SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE CLINICAL SERVICES

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center (SFHMC) employs a full-time team of surgical intensivists who provide Surgical Critical Care (SCC) services for critically ill, injured or high-risk surgical patients. These services are available 24 hours a day for all patients in the Medical/Surgical ICU (MSICU) located on the fifth floor of the Patient Care Tower, and surgical step-down unit (SICA) on the tenth floor of the Patient Care Tower.

The surgical intensivists direct minute-to-minute intensive care decision-making and they coordinate consultants' recommendations in complex patients. The SCC services at Saint Francis meet the highest standards of The Leapfrog Group for Patient Safety.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

What are Surgical Intensivists?

Surgical intensivists are board-certified general surgeons who have completed additional training in the management and treatment of critically ill surgical patients. They have all received the American Board of Surgery's Certificate of Added Qualifications in Surgical Critical Care. The services they offer include the detailed evaluation and management of acutely ill or injured patients in the MSICU. Management of the patient may include technical procedures that the intensivists are specifically trained to perform.

Intensivists use a team approach to patient care by coordinating nursing staff, consulting physicians, pharmacists, respiratory therapists and other hospital staff. As board-certified surgeons, the surgical intensivists have unique insight into surgical problems in the critically ill. Since the surgical critical care team maintains a continuous presence in the ICU, they are able to deal most effectively with the patients' immediate needs. The SCC team works closely with the patients' operating surgeon to direct the overall care plan.

Who is on the Surgical Critical Care Team?

The SCC Team includes attending SCC faculty, residents, critical care-trained physician assistants (PAs) and ICU nurses. Due to the complexity of illness in ICU patients, timeliness of response by the physician is important. Through the involvement of a multiple physician/PA team, we can maintain an in-hospital physician or PA to respond immediately to the bedside for medical emergencies. There is full-time, in-hospital resident and physician assistant clinical coverage, and an attending surgical intensivist is always readily available.

Faculty members are attending teaching physicians who are board-certified by the American College of Surgeons to practice both general surgery and surgical critical care medicine. All have appointments at the University of Connecticut (UConn) School of Medicine and are full-time educators at SFHMC.

Residents are licensed physicians who have completed medical school and are pursuing specialty training. The SCC program at SFHMC is an important teaching component of UConn's Residency Program. Resident physicians who are specializing in Surgery, Obstetrics/Gynecology, and Emergency Medicine, as well as visiting physicians from across the U.S. and from other countries may rotate onto the Surgical Critical Care service for their critical care training.

Physician assistants (PAs) are healthcare professionals specifically trained to work under a physician's supervision. The critical care PAs at Saint Francis have focused experience in the evaluation and management of critically ill patients and are dedicated full-time to intensive care.

ICU Nurses are registered nurses who have received additional training in the care and management of critically ill patients.

What other specialists routinely participate in the care of critically ill patients?

Respiratory therapists, dietitians and pharmacists are also vital members of the SCC team. These elite groups of specialists provide daily patient care support under the direction of the attending surgical intensivist.

Will other specialists be consulted?

Surgical intensivists are required to maintain expertise in the evaluation and management of multiple organ system problems in critically ill patients, including cardiopulmonary (heart/lung) disease, renal (kidney) disease, neurological (brain and spine) disease, gastrointestinal disease, nutrition support, infectious disease and immunology. The SCC Team is qualified to perform invasive cardiopulmonary monitoring and management, manage ventilators (breathing machines), perform bronchoscopy and tracheostomy, place feeding tubes, and provide complex nutritional support. As a result, other specialty consultations are not routinely necessary.

Specialists, however, are consulted to participate in the care of particularly complex or unusual cases, or when a medical service is required that the Surgical Critical Care Team doesn't routinely provide (e.g. dialysis, cardiac catheterization/angioplasty).

Do the Surgical Intensivists have any new or special treatments?

The SCC program is committed to research in improving care of critically ill and injured patients, and continues to use leading-edge approaches to patient care. The faculty members have contributed to over 100 published medical reports related to ventilator management, treatment of shock, cardiac monitoring, nutrition, infections, blood disorders, and complications in surgery, as well as a variety of other types of surgical problems. Active research projects are always in progress, and your loved one may have the opportunity to enroll in one of these studies.

What are the lines of communication?

The bedside ICU nurses and respiratory therapists are an elite group of specialists and, as vital members of the SCC team, can provide you with initial, up-to-date information. The intensivist's mission is to maintain active lines of communication with both the admitting surgeon and the families of the critically ill. Generally, questions concerning an operative procedure are directed to the operating surgeon. Otherwise, the SCC team may be the best source of the most recent information.

You may be asked to be part of a "family meeting" between one or more healthcare worker and members of the family in order to discuss significant issues. Remember that a physician who is familiar with the patient maintains a physical presence in the hospital 24 hours per day and may respond to your questions. Of course, unexpected or urgent issues will be communicated immediately. We ask you to provide contact information (e.g., work, home and cellular phone numbers, and beeper numbers).

PATIENT CARE SERVICES INCLUDE:

- ◆ Airway support; intubation, bronchoscopy, tracheostomy (percutaneous or open);
- ◆ Cardio-pulmonary monitoring and life support;
- ◆ Respiratory support, including advanced techniques in ventilatory support;
- ◆ Treatment of life threatening infections;
- ◆ Pre- and post-operative cardio-pulmonary assessment of high risk surgical patients;
- ◆ Complex nutritional support including percutaneous endoscopic and open feeding gastrostomy or jejunostomy;
- ◆ Prevention and treatment of multiple system organ failure (heart failure, respiratory (lung) failure, kidney failure, etc); and
- ◆ Family support and medical ethics.

SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE FACULTY

Gary R. Collin, M.D., F.A.C.S.,

is Director of Surgical Critical Care. Dr. Collin received his bachelor's degree in Biology from Dartmouth College and his medical degree from Washington University of St. Louis. He completed his surgery residency at Mercy Catholic Medical Center in Philadelphia and his fellowship in Trauma and Critical Care at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital.



Dr. Collin is Board Certified in both General Surgery and in Surgical Critical Care. Prior to his present position, he was Associate Director of Trauma and Associate in Surgical Education at Carilion Health System, Roanoke, Virginia, as well as Assistant of Clinical Surgery at University of Virginia, Charlottesville. He is a member of the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM), the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma (EAST), and the American College of Surgeons (ACS).

His research interests are in the areas of acute respiratory failure, prevention of organ failure in critical illness, fungal infections, alternatives to transfusion therapy, and biomedical ethics.



Laurie Anne Loiacono, M.D.,

is Associate Director of Surgical Critical Care. Dr. Loiacono received her bachelor of arts degree in Biology from Goucher College and her medical degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Medicine. She proceeded to complete her general surgical residency at the Medical College of Pennsylvania Hospital and her fellowship in Surgical Critical Care at Hartford Hospital/University of Connecticut.

Prior to her position at Saint Francis Hospital, she was Director of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at Baystate Medical Center and provided medical and surgical critical care services as a member of Baystate's multidisciplinary critical care team. She received additional training in Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine and participated in Baystate's Wound Care/Hyperbaric Medicine Program.

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Dr. Loiacono is board certified in General Surgery and Surgical Critical Care. She is a member of the ACS, the SCCM, the Shock Society, the Association of Women Surgeons (AWS), the Wound Healing Society (WHS), the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Society (UHMS) and the Brain Trauma Foundation.

Her research interests include shock and resuscitation, metabolic response to injury, neurocritical care, nutrition in the critically ill, methods of advanced wound care, burn wound management and physiologic response to hyperbaric oxygen therapy.



Anthony S. Morgan, M.D., F.A.C.S.

is Chairman/Director for the Department of Surgery and Trauma-Critical Care, Director of the Traumatic Brain Injury Team, and Director of the Trauma Research and Education Center. Dr. Morgan received his Bachelor's Degree from Villanova University, followed by his M.D. degree from Hahnemann University. After completing his residency at Hahnemann, he completed a Trauma/Critical Care

Fellowship at the Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical System Services (MIEMSS) in Baltimore.

His research interests have concentrated on the area of brain injury, and he is co-author of the book *Maximizing Brain Injury Recovery*. Dr. Morgan was ranked as one of the top 100 doctors by *Connecticut Magazine* in 2001.

Manuel Lorenzo, M.D., F.A.C.S.

is Director of Trauma. Dr. Lorenzo received his Bachelor's degree in Biology from Fairfield University and his medical degree from the University of Puerto Rico. Dr. Lorenzo completed his surgical residency at the University District Hospital in San Juan, Puerto Rico and a fellowship in Trauma/Critical Care at the University of California-San Francisco-Fresno University Medical Center.

He was the Associate Director of the Trauma Center at the Puerto Rico Medical Center and the Vice-Chairman of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma in Puerto Rico. He is the Founder and President of the Caribbean Trauma Society and an active member of SCCM, EAST, ACS, American Trauma Society and the Panamerican Trauma Society.

His research interests include shock and resuscitation, surgical infections, development of trauma systems, and multiple organ dysfunction syndrome.



Lisa M. Barratt, M.S., P.A.-C

received her bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the University of Connecticut, her Master's degree in Chemistry from St. Joseph's College in West Hartford, and her Physician Associate Certificate from Yale University School of Medicine.

Ms. Barratt is a member of SCCM and the American Academy of Physician Assistants. She is Vice-President of the Connecticut Physician Assistant Foundation.

She is a Clinical Associate in Surgery at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and serves as the Academic Coordinator and Assistant Professor of the Quinnipiac University Physician Assistant Program.



Laura Boone, P.A.-C.

received her BS degree in Biology from George Mason University in 1990, then attended George Washington University's Physician Assistant Program, where she graduated as an Alpha Eta Honor Society member in 1995.

After her general surgery residency at Norwalk Hospital, Ms. Boone worked as a cardiothoracic PA at the Hospital of St. Raphael in New Haven. Laura came to Saint Francis in 1999 and helps coordinate patient care in the ICU, serving as a liaison between patients, families, and physicians.

Peter S. Sandor, P.A.-C.

graduated from Quinnipiac College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Respiratory Care. Mr. Sandor worked as a registered respiratory therapist in the ICU at Yale-New Haven Hospital and returned to Quinnipiac University to become a Physician Assistant, graduating with distinction in his Master of Health Science degree.

As a student, he volunteered at the Hartford Homeless Shelter and also worked as a teacher in health promotion and disease prevention. His research focus is in mechanical ventilation and sedation in critical care.



James Lunn, P.A.-C.

graduated from Quinnipiac College with a BS degree in Respiratory Care. Mr. Lunn then worked as a Registered Respiratory Therapist at Yale-New Haven Hospital. He graduated as a Physician Assistant, with a Masters of Health Science at Quinnipiac University. While there he graduated with Honors and received an Academic and Clinical Excellence Award.

Before coming to Saint Francis, Mr. Lunn worked as a Cardiothoracic P.A. at Montefiore Medical Center in Bronx, NY. His areas of research are mechanical ventilation and cardiac shock.

For more information, call or write to:

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