

# WELCOME TO THE ICU !

Information booklet for children



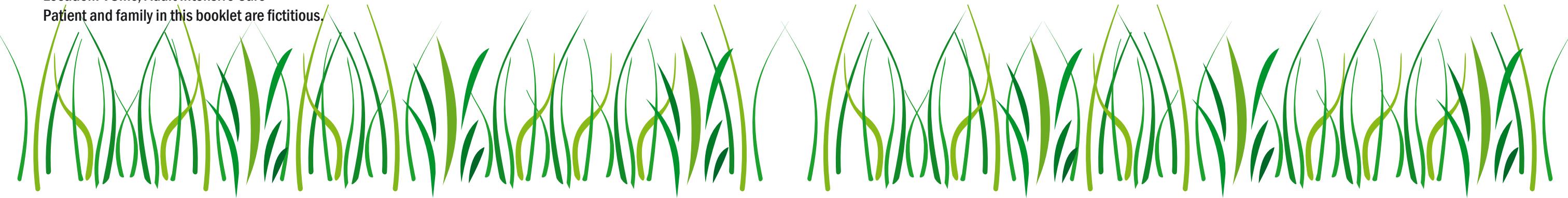
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Today you will be visiting someone who is ill. This may be your daddy, mummy, granddad, grandmother or someone else you know very well. The ward he or she is on is called the Intensive Care Unit. This is a ward where you will find people that are very ill. In this booklet you will find pictures of the ward you are visiting.

This booklet will help you understand some of the things you will see when you are visiting this ward.

Idea & Copy: © 2015 Evelien de Vries- van Hooff, Amsterdam  
Design & Photography: © 2015 Edwin Gerritsen, Hoofddorp  
Location: VUmc, Adult Intensive Care  
Patient and family in this booklet are fictitious.



# THE ENTRANCE

7B of 7C



**TRiiiiING !!!**



The Intensive Care unit is on the 7th Floor. You can choose corridor 7B or 7C. If you come to the ICU outside of the visiting hours there is a buzzer you need to press. The door will then open for you.

# THE FAMILY ROOM

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When you get to the ward you might need to wait a little bit.  
There is a special waiting room with a play area.



# WHERE DO I GO?

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There are lots of long corridors in the hospital.

You don't know where to go?

You will find a large television in the ICU corridor. On this television screen you will see which room you need to go to.



# WORKING

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On this ward there are doctors and nurses.  
They care for the people that are ill.  
The doctors wear **long** white coats.  
The nurses wear **short** white coats.



# MEDICINE

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You will see a lot of stuff surrounding the bed. Often the person that is ill can't take any tablets. That's why we use syringes to give them medicine. Sometimes that means lots of syringes!

# THE MONITOR

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Next to the bed you will see a television with lots of coloured lines and numbers. We call this the 'Monitor'. These lines and numbers help the doctors and nurses understand how the person that is ill is doing.



# THE PATIENT

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The Intensive care Unit is a ward with lots of noises, bright lights and special machines.



These machines could make a beeping noise. The nurses know exactly what these beeps mean.

These machines are important in helping the person that is ill to get better.

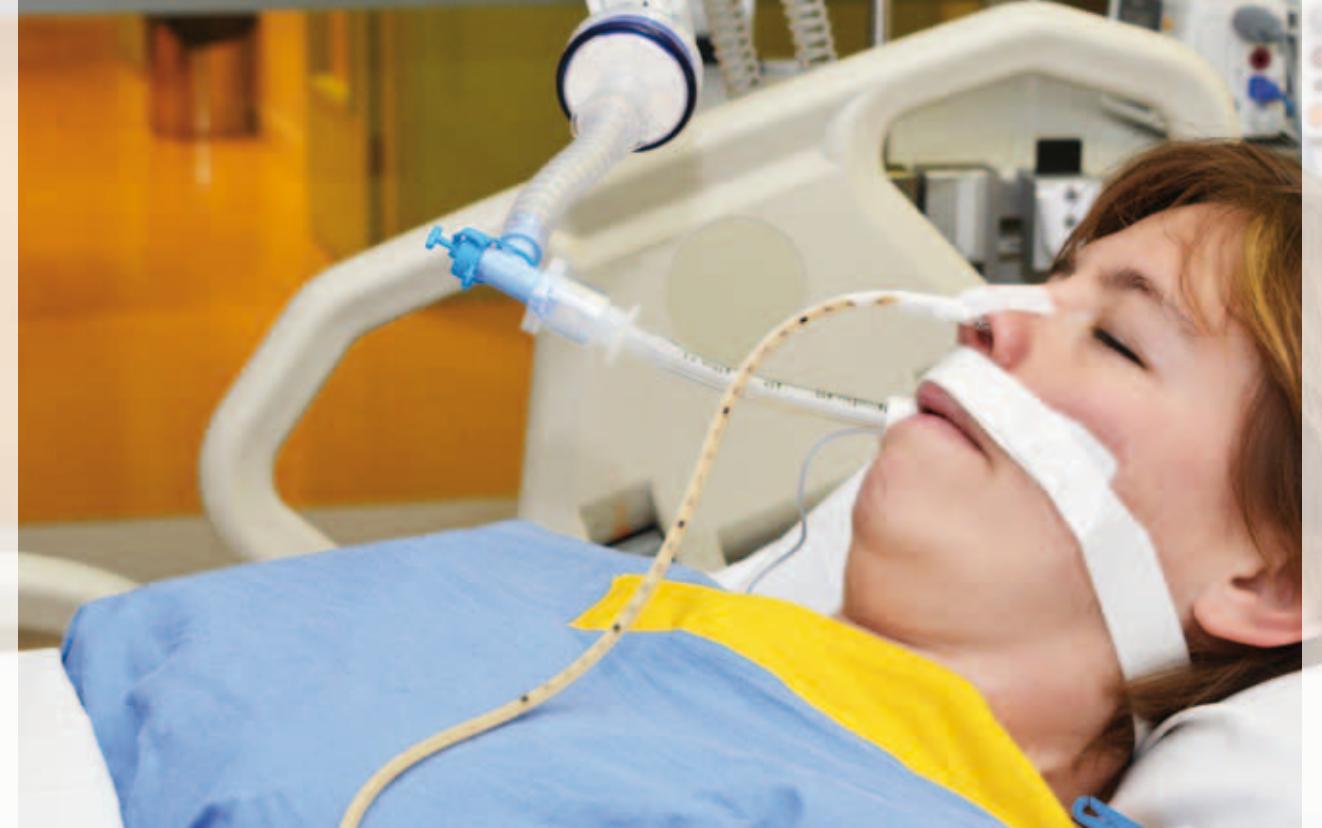


# BREATHING WITH A MACHINE

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Some people are so ill they have to be helped with breathing. The machine next to the bed blows air in and out through a

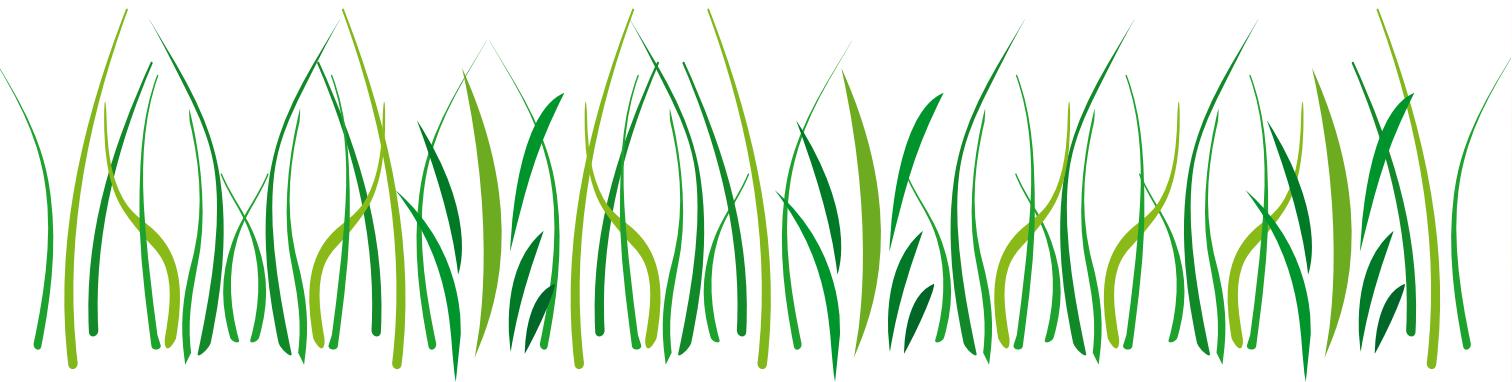
tube in their mouth. To hold the tube in place there is a large white plaster stuck to their face. Eating is difficult now. The food is turned into a liquid that goes into the body through a small plastic tube in their nose.



# VISITING

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Some people that are on the Intensive Care Unit are given a little something to help them sleep. You won't be able to talk to them then, because they will be sleeping. You can however hold their hand if you would like to.



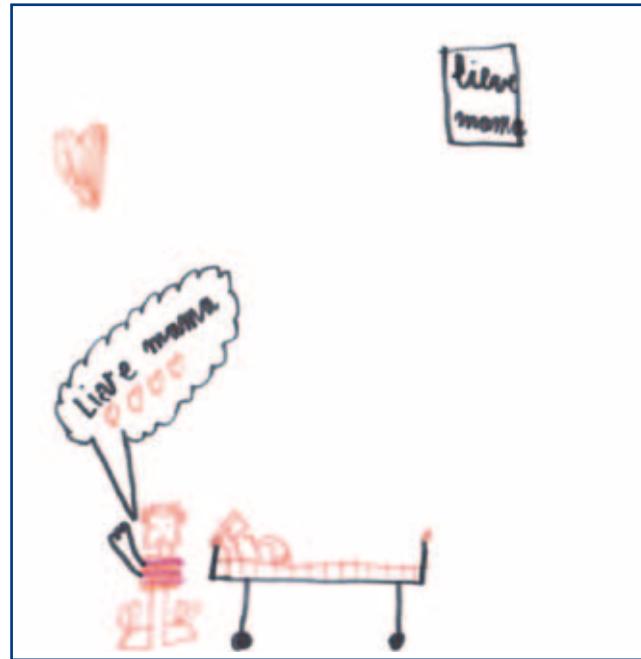
# VISITING

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Sometimes the person that is ill will be awake, but will have a tube in their mouth. He or she won't be able to talk. Sometimes they will be able to nod or shake their head. Writing can help you talk to each other. Once the tube has been removed they will be able to talk again.



If you have any questions or if you are scared you and your family can always go and talk to the family counsellors or nurse. The nurse or family counsellor can explain everything you have seen during your visit.



If you have made any drawings you can always bring these to put up on the wall!

# GOODBYE !

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# PLAYTIME

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After your visit make sure you visit **Kinderstad!**  
This is a large play area on the 9th and 10th floor.



VUmc Kinderstad

