

ICU

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOTHERAPY STUDENT CLINICAL PROGRAM REVIEW MATERIAL

PROGRAM/LOCATION: INTENSIVE CARE UNIT- MGH 9E/W

To prepare for your placement, please review the following:

Conditions/Topics

The Intensive Care Unit (ICU) will have any patient from any service that needs to be in an ICU setting. A person is admitted to the ICU because they need either/and invasive monitoring, ventilator assistance they cannot receive on a nursing unit or certain medications which cannot be given on a nursing unit. You will be involved with patients from thoracic surgery, orthopedic surgery, general surgery, oral and maxillofacial surgery, trauma, internal medicine and perhaps plastic surgery. Each of these specialties has many possible surgeries and conditions. You can refer to the other inpatient services to get an idea of some of the conditions.

Medications

Many medications are given in the ICU setting. There are a number of computers available where you will be reading charts and documenting. You can use the computers and your access to the Oacis system to look up medications that the patient is receiving.

Assessment/Treatment

The assessments and treatments can vary depending on the type of patient you have. Reviewing auscultation and mechanical ventilation would be helpful as you will be auscultating quite often and it is very probable that you will be involved in the care of several mechanically ventilated patients. Early mobilization, ROM of limbs and secretion clearance will be issues to be considered on a daily basis in the ICU.