

Children's Mercy Kansas City:



The geography of a medical space does not necessarily dictate staffing and the how care should be provided.

Children's Mercy Kansas City (CM) has a long history of providing pediatric burn care. Prior to April 2020 the CM Burn Unit was connected to an inpatient medical/surgical (med/surg) unit with 7 specialty beds and a treatment room that serviced inpatient and ambulatory needs. Care for patients with burn injuries primarily occurred in the Burn Unit, however care location is determined by the severity of illness and location of the patient. Burn care could be provided in the ambulatory setting, Emergency Department, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), other med/surg units or the Operating Room.

The scheduled relocation and renovation of the Burn Unit and med/surg unit provided a great opportunity for a paradigm shift in burn care. CM transitioned burn care from unit-based to a team-based approach and created the Burn Specialty Team (BST), a group of burn-trained registered nurses available in-house 24 hours per day, every day. The BST manages and completes all burn debridements/treatments and ambulatory burn clinic visits. Differing from the traditional model of burn care, the BST does not function as the bedside nurse, but more as a resource to the bedside nurse, medical team, patient and caregiver. Annual nursing education is provided to the Emergency Department, PICU and primary med/surg unit in order to maintain nursing competency. Just-in-time training and job aides have been created to provide patient injury and burn dressing specific education. During the brief BST existence our organization has noticed increased staff collaboration, improved care coordination and patient/parent education, and increased burn nurse availability leading to decreased time from arrival to initial debridement.

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