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Beth Israel's Pediatric Intensive Care Unit
Given National Recognition For Family-Centered Care

The Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at Beth Israel Medical Center has recently been recognized for their innovation to improve care to critically ill and injured patients, their families, and those chosen by the patient to be with them. The annual *Family-Centered Care Award* is sponsored by the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM), the largest multiprofessional organization dedicated to ensuring excellence and consistency in the practice of critical care and their Family Support Committee. Each year, the SCCM chooses one unit from among thousands of pediatric and adult critical care units across the country.

“Our multidisciplinary team decided to create a family-centered model of care incorporating medical, spiritual and psychological aspects of healing to provide a comforting atmosphere for the family unit,” says Edward Conway, M.D., Chairman of Pediatrics and Chief of Pediatric Critical Care at Beth Israel. “So we are thrilled to be recognized for the measures we put in place to provide care and compassion for the whole family while providing the best medical care possible.”

Some of the measures they have taken to provide family-centered care include:

- Dry-erase boards in each room that lists the date, attending and resident physician names, nurse's names and three blank lines where patient and parents are asked to tell the team what three things would most make their hospital stay a great one.
- Complimentary televisions, phones, computer access with portable wireless laptops, a DVD player and radio in each room.
- A 24-hour visitation policy that embraces families and allows the parent and child to remain together at night by providing sleeping areas for the family members either at the bedside or in the family lounge.
- Family lounge that includes two refrigerators, a computer, fax machine, phone, flat screen TV and reading materials for parents and children.
- Coffee, bagels and fruits for parents in the playroom each morning so they can nourish themselves and have the opportunity to socialize with other parents who are in similar situations.
- A comprehensive child life program that provides services including intensive art, play, music and pet therapy for patients and their families.

Dr. Conway will receive the award for the PICU at the Society of Critical Care Medicine annual meeting that will be held in Orlando in February 2007.