



CRITICALLY ILL CHILD

Historical review:

The first pediatric ICU was established in Europe by Goran Haglund in 1955 at Children's Hospital of Goteburg in Sweden, 10 years before the unit at Children's Hospital of the District of Columbia was developed by Cheston Berlin. John Downes opened the next recorded pediatric ICU at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in 1967 (*Downes, 1992*).

Over the next years, hundreds of pediatric ICUs would be established in academic institutions, children's hospitals, and many community hospitals throughout North America and Europe (*Randolph et al., 2004*).

Introduction:

Critically ill child means a child who is in a clinical state which may result in cardiac arrest or severe neurologic complication, if not recognized promptly. This term does not refer to any particular disease, but many diseases can lead to "critically ill state". Whether a child presents with a primary cardiovascular, respiratory, neurologic, infectious or metabolic disorder, the goal is early recognition of respiratory and circulatory insufficiency (*Kinsella, 1993*).

Acute life threatening condition can result from a serious illness affecting one or more of the body systems necessary to maintain life or a serious injury; trauma, burn, near drowning, poisoning which leads to derangement in physiology with the potential to result in significant morbidity and mortality without prompt and appropriate intervention (*Fletcher, 1987*).