

What to expect in the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit

Please note: this is a general timeline. Every patient and surgical procedure is different.

0-1 hour

- Asleep, connected to tubes and monitors
- Family can have a short visit

1-3 hours

- Start to wake up, if stable and ready
- Open eyes
- You will have a breathing tube and won't be able to talk

4-6 hours

- Check pain level, give more medication
- Remove breathing tube if breathing well

6+ hours

- Family's second visit
- Can have ice chips after breathing tube is out
- Sit at edge of bed, hugging pillow (nurse will help)

Overnight

- Overnight doctor visit
- Medication, blood work and assessments done as needed

Next morning

- Sit in chair for breakfast
- Surgery team doctor visits and may remove chest tube
- ICU doctor and nurse check if ready for inpatient unit

Next day

- Sit in chair for each meal
- Use sternal precautions when moving
- Start home medications

For more information about what expect in the CVICU, scan this QR code with the camera on your phone or device.

