

Dollars at Work

Portable CT Scanner

Gifts to Children's Miracle Network at Penn State Health Children's Hospital funded a portable CT Scanner. We checked in with Dr. Duane C. Williams, Division of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine, to learn more.

What does the portable scanner do?

The portable CT scanner provides us the opportunity to obtain head imaging on children who are so critically ill, that it is not safe for them to leave the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU).

What types of patients would use this?

Patients with a concern for:

- Head trauma
- Brain/head bleed
- Seizures
- Brain tumor
- Change in mental status
- Stroke
- Cardiac arrest



What is the benefit of a portable CT scanner?

Penn State Health Children's Hospital is a tertiary/quaternary center. That means we at times care for children who are very sick and support other institutions that do not have the means to care for kids who are very ill. Children with conditions like those above often present with concern for damage to their brain. These little ones can be so sick that even leaving the PICU is too dangerous. Having the ability to bring the portable scanner to a child's hospital room allows our team to tailor therapy safely and quickly to give them the best chance to survive.

Having such a device is very unique to the PICU at Penn State Health Children's Hospital and enhances the care we can provide to critically ill children. Many children's hospitals are not blessed with having a portable CT scanner. I have seen the faces of families when they see a mobile CT scanner come into their child's room. They are amazed that such a device exists and that we have it for their child.

Thank you for providing us the ability to serve these families and their children with such state-of-the-art equipment!

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