Rapid Treatment Area (RTA)

The Texas Children’s Emergency Rapid Treatment Area (RTA) opened February 25th, 2003. The RTA is a 19-bed unit located across the lobby from the main Emergency Center on the first floor of the West Tower at Texas Children’s Hospital.

The RTA functions primarily as an observation unit for the Texas Children’s Emergency Center. Patients who do not require inpatient admission but require hospitalization for 23 hours or less are considered candidates for this unit. Other functions the RTA serves are as follows:

1) The RTA is an entry point into the hospital for direct admission of patients from Texas Children Pediatric Associates (TCPA) physicians. To directly admit (and thereby bypass the Emergency Center) patients to Texas Children’s, TCPA physicians notify the RTA of a potential patient prior to sending the patient to Texas Children’s. The patients come in directly to the RTA from the physicians’ offices with admission orders and an admission note written by the TCPA physician. The RTA physician evaluates all patients sent for direct admission, reviews their orders, and determines whether patients are clinically stable or unstable. Clinically stable patients stay in the RTA while waiting for their inpatient beds. Clinically unstable patients are taken to the main Emergency Center for further evaluation and management.

2) The RTA serves to hold patients from the Clinical Care Center (CCC) who require inpatient beds. This service is provided after-hours starting at 5pm on weekdays.

3) The RTA serves as a unit in which care for patients requiring minor surgical procedures may be provided by pediatric emergency personnel and/or staff from surgical subspecialties.

The above-mentioned functions of the RTA help to expedite patient care, to reduce wait times for patients, and to improve overall patient satisfaction among Emergency Center patients and patients requiring inpatient care.

The RTA is open 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Physician coverage for the RTA is provided by physicians from the Emergency Center and Faculty Inpatient Service. The Nurse Manager is Kim Holt RN and the Medical Director of the unit is Ade Ojo, MD. The telephone number to reach personnel in the RTA is 832-824-5675 or 832-824-5676.