

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910449771503321
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Titolo	Intensive care [[electronic resource]] : a doctor's journal // John F. Murray
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, 2000
ISBN	1-282-35689-5 0-520-92902-0 9786612356896 1-59734-681-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (311 p.)
Disciplina	362.1/74
Soggetti	Intensive care units Critical care medicine Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Prologue -- Day 1. Thursday -- Day 2. Friday -- Day 3. Saturday -- Day 4. Sunday -- Day 5. Monday -- Day 6. Tuesday -- Day 7. Wednesday -- Day 8. Thursday -- Day 9. Friday -- Day 10. Saturday -- Day 11. Sunday -- Day 12. Monday -- Day 13. Tuesday -- Day 14. Wednesday -- Day 15. Thursday -- Day 16. Friday -- Day 17. Saturday -- Day 18. Sunday -- Day 19. Monday -- Day 20. Tuesday -- Day 21. Wednesday -- Day 22. Thursday -- Day 23. Friday -- Day 24. Saturday -- Day 25. Sunday -- Day 26. Monday -- Day 27. Tuesday -- Day 28. Wednesday -- Epilogue -- Notes -- Acknowledgments -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Intensive Care is an affecting view from the trenches, a seasoned doctor's minute-by-minute and day-by-day account of life in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of a major inner-city hospital, San Francisco General. John F. Murray, for many years Chief of the Pulmonary and Critical Care Division of the hospital and a Professor at the University of California, San Francisco, takes readers on his daily ward rounds, introducing them to the desperately ill patients he treats as well as to the young physicians and medical students who accompany him.

Writing with compassion and knowledge accumulated over a long career, Murray presents the true stories of patients who show up with myriad disorders: asthma, cardiac failure, gastrointestinal diseases, complications due to AIDS, the effects of drug and alcohol abuse, emphysema. Readers will come away from this book with a comprehensive understanding of what an ICU is, what it does, who gets admitted, and how doctors and nurses make decisions concerning life-threatening medical problems. Intensive care for critically ill patients is a new but well-established and growing branch of medicine. Estimates suggest that 15 to 20 percent of all hospitalized patients in the United States are treated in an intensive or coronary care unit during each hospital stay, so there is a real possibility that the reader will either be admitted to an ICU himself or herself or knows someone who will be. Murray not only offers a real-time account of the diagnosis, treatment, and progress of his patients over the course of one month but also conveys a wealth of information about various diseases and medical procedures in succinct and easy-to-understand terms. In addition, he elaborates on ethical dilemmas that he confronts on an almost daily basis: the extent of patient autonomy, the denial of ICU care, the withdrawal of life support, and physician-assisted suicide. Murray concludes that ICUs are doing their job, but they could be even better, cheaper, and--most important--more humane. His chronicle brings substance to a world known to most of us only through the fiction of television.
