About this Release
The Scottish Intensive Care Society Audit Group (SICSAG) 2011 Annual National Report includes data on activity, interventions and case-mix adjusted outcomes for all general adult Intensive Care Units in Scotland in 2010. A subset of these data is also included in relation to over 95% of High Dependency Units (General and Specialist). The full report can be found at http://www.sicsag.scot.nhs.uk

Key Points

- **Delayed discharges:** Delays continue to increase (although this may be partly due to improvements in the data collection method). The main reason for both ICU and HDU delays is delay in obtaining downstream beds. Unit level data is available for the first time in figures 15 and 16. One hospital has 3 units who are above 3 standard deviations and we would advise that this is reviewed locally.

- **Out of hours discharges:** Out of hours discharges remain around 15%, reasons may be due to overall shortage of unit beds and difficulties in finding a downstream bed.

- **Source of Admission:** The number of patients admitted to ICU/Combined Units directly from the Emergency Department now exceeds that admitted from wards. This may be that critically ill patients are being recognised and treated quicker.

- **Level 0 Patients in Critical Care:** 1% of ICU/Combined unit episodes and 6% of HDU episodes are Level 0. Level 0 is defined as a patient where adequate monitoring could be provided in a general ward. SICSAG advise that units with a high proportion of level 0 patients review this locally.

- **ICU mortality continues to improve:** The Scottish ICU Standardised mortality ratio is 0.86 – a continuation of the downward trend seen over the last ten years.

- **Quality improvement measures/processes:** Appendix 2 and 3 show that quality improvement measures continue in all units.
Background

The Scottish Intensive Care Society Audit Group (SICSAG) is the national audit for Critical Care in Scotland and has produced a continuous database since 1995; currently there are 23 Intensive Care Units and 41 High Dependency Units voluntarily contributing data to this Audit.

SICSAG's aim is to improve the quality of care delivered to Critical Care patients by monitoring and comparing activities and outcomes across Scottish Critical Care. We intend to drive standards and quality of care upward by engagement with clinical staff, and to provide them with information that can be used in quality improvement programmes.

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Further Information

Further information can be found at http://www.sicsag.scot.nhs.uk or on the ISD website

About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up. Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of ‘Official Statistics’. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD. Further information on ISD’s statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the ISD website www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/