About this Release
The Scottish Intensive Care Society Audit Group (SICSAG) 2012 Annual National Report includes data on activity, interventions and case-mix adjusted outcomes for all general adult Intensive Care Units in Scotland in 2011. A subset of these data is also included in relation to over 95% of High Dependency Units (general and specialist). The full report will be published on the SICSAG website [http://www.sicsag.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.sicsag.scot.nhs.uk) on the 14th August 2012.

Key Points

- **Out of hours discharges**: out of hours discharges remained stable at 13% for ICUs and 15% for HDUs. Two HDUs had significantly higher rates of out of hours discharges.
- **Delayed discharges**: there continued to be problems with discharging patients from critical care mainly due to difficulty in finding ward beds, although the recent upward trend in delayed discharges appears to be levelling off.
- **Early discharges**: several units had a significantly higher rate of early discharges which can be due to a marker of insufficient resources, but reassuringly no unit had significantly higher readmissions rates which may be a indicator that they were discharged too early.
- **Level 0 Patients in Critical Care**: the proportion of HDU episodes requiring only level 0 (ward care) increased from 6% in 2010 to 8% in 2011 which may be due to lack of resource in other hospital areas.
- **ICU mortality continues to improve**: The Scottish ICU Standardised Mortality Ratio is 0.79 – the lowest since the audit began and continues the downward trend seen over the last ten years.
- **Quality improvement**: Appendix 1 and 2 show that quality improvement measures continue in all critical care units participating in the audit. Ten quality indicators were launched in January 2012 and will be reported on in next years annual report.
**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; we report on 25 Intensive Care Unit/Combined units and 43 High Dependency Units voluntarily contributing data to this Audit in 2011.

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 in the [full report](www.sicsag.scot.nhs.uk) [3.3 Mb], at [www.sicsag.scot.nhs.uk](www.sicsag.scot.nhs.uk) and on the [ISD website](www.isdscotland.org/).