

## Publication Summary

### **Scottish Intensive Care Society Audit Group**

#### **Audit of Critical Care in Scotland 2014 Reporting on 2013**

**Publication date – 12 August 2014**

### **About this Release**

The Scottish Intensive Care Society Audit Group (SICSAG) 2014 Annual National Report is a comprehensive report of the activity, interventions and outcomes of Critical Care in Scotland.

The report describes the activities and outcomes of Scottish Intensive Care Units (ICU) and High Dependency Units (HDU) in 2013. It includes data on compliance with the Scottish Critical Care Quality Indicators as well as activity, dependency (level of care) and outcome data during 2013. Compliance with the Quality Indicators (QIs) for Critical Care is published for the second time.

The audit has developed into a co-ordinated quality improvement programme which provides data, analysis and feedback which aims to raise standards and continued improvement in outcomes. We believe that this is the only audit in the world which reports named ICU outcomes to this level of public scrutiny and detail.

### **Key Points**

- 43, 680 admissions to 70 Critical Care units (ICUs and HDUs) were included in the audit in 2013.
- All ICUs now participate in the audit and only four HDUs (excluding Obstetric HDUs) do not participate at this time.
- More units have a daily review and written management plan by an appropriately trained consultant. This reinforces the setting of daily goals for patients, driven by the Scottish Patient Safety Programme.
- Night time discharges remain relatively unchanged and range from 0.4-27.8% in ICU and from 0-29.4% in HDU. Night time discharges are forced early discharges to accommodate another patient or are delayed from earlier in the day due to shortage of ward beds.
- Early discharges also remain relatively unchanged from 2012. Early discharges from Critical Care are unplanned discharges that occur before the patient is deemed medically ready. These occur because of pressure on bed availability or staffing. Early discharges can be used as a marker of insufficient resources. In 2013 early

discharges ranged from 0-15% in ICUs and Combined Units, and from 0-8.9% in HDUs.

- 17% of discharges from ICU and 19% of discharges from HDU were delayed for more than six hours. There is wide variation between units.
- More units now have an end of life policy in place.
- Case mix adjusted mortality (i.e. taking account of the severity of the patients condition) remained stable following a consistent reduction over the last ten years. There are no outliers this year.
- All ICUs continue to have Mortality and Morbidity meetings and only six HDUs have no meetings.
- Bed occupancy remained stable at 72% in ICUs and 78% in HDUs.
- Night time admissions to ICU and HDU are 34% and 33% respectively highlighting the unpredictability of this service.

## Background

SICSAG has maintained a national database of patients admitted to adult general ICUs in Scotland since 1995, and the audit expanded to include HDUs from 2002. Our aim is to improve the quality of care delivered to Critical Care patients by monitoring and comparing activities and outcomes.

The units in the report admit patients with differing problems; therefore it is important to be aware of the speciality mix between hospitals when interpreting these figures.

## Contacts

**Dr Stephen Cole (Chairman)**

[Stephen.cole@nhs.net](mailto:Stephen.cole@nhs.net)

Please email in the first instance.

**Angela Khan (Clinical Coordinator)**

[angela.khan@nhs.net](mailto:angela.khan@nhs.net)

Tel 0131 275 6895

**Lorraine Smyth (Senior Information Analyst)**

[Lorraine.smyth@nhs.net](mailto:Lorraine.smyth@nhs.net)

Tel 0131 275 6529

Our media spokesperson is Dr Stephen Cole, SICSAG Chairman.

## Further Information

The full report can be found on the [SICSAG 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. [www.isdscotland.org/](http://www.isdscotland.org/)