

Publication Summary



Scottish Intensive Care Society Audit Group

Audit of Critical Care in Scotland 2015 Reporting on 2014

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About this Release

The Scottish Intensive Care Society Audit Group's 2015 Annual National Report provides a comprehensive summary of the activity, interventions and outcomes of Critical Care services in Scotland. It describes the activities and outcomes of Intensive Care Units and High Dependency Units in 2014. For the first time, data on the surveillance of Healthcare Associated Infections in Intensive Care Units is included.

Key Points

- Over the last ten years, mortality figures for admission to Intensive Care Units in Scotland have been reducing. This report shows that patients are now more likely to survive their admission to Intensive Care.
- Every patient in a Critical Care Unit should be seen each day by an appropriately trained consultant. In 2014, 77% of Intensive Care Units were found to comply with this quality standard, a reduction from the 85% reported in 2013. For High Dependency Units, the figure was 76%, an increase from 66% in 2013.
- Any deaths in a Critical Care unit should be discussed in an open forum so that the team can learn from any complications or errors. In 2014, 92% of Intensive Care Units and 44% of High Dependency Units reported having such discussions.
- Night time discharges (8pm to 8am) from a critical care unit are associated with worse outcomes for the patient. These remained at a similar percentage to that reported in 2013, with 13% of patients being discharged at night time.
- 2.5% of Intensive Care Unit patients developed a Healthcare Associated Infection in 2014. Incidence of Healthcare Associated Infections has remained the same since 2013.
- There were over 45,000 admissions included in the audit in 2014.

Background

The Scottish Intensive Care Society Audit Group aims to improve the quality of care delivered to Critical Care patients by monitoring and comparing activities and outcomes. The Audit of Critical Care has developed into a co-ordinated quality improvement programme which provides data, analysis and feedback to raise standards and continued improvement in patient outcomes. We believe that this is the only audit in the world which reports outcomes by identifiable Intensive Care Unit to this level of public scrutiny and detail.

Audits help clinicians and managers to measure improvement and compare themselves to others. The units in the report admit patients with a range of differing conditions; it is important to be aware of differences of specialties in hospitals and between hospitals when interpreting these figures. There may be valid explanations why certain standards have not been achieved in individual units.

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Further Information

The full report can be found on the [Scottish Intensive Care Society Audit Group website](#).

About ISD

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