

Audit of Critical Care in NHSScotland

Annual Report

Publication Date – 9 August 2016

About this release

This report from the Information Services Division, Health Protection Scotland and the Scottish Intensive Care Society Audit Group provides a summary of the activity, interventions and outcomes of critical care services in NHSScotland. This audit includes all Intensive Care Units and the majority of High Dependency Units in 2015 in NHSScotland.

Main points

- The audit covers over 46 000 patients admitted to critical care units in NHSScotland during 2015.
- Intensive Care Units treat patients with a high level of complexity, with 2 out of 3 patients requiring the most advanced levels of support.
- 20% of patients admitted to Intensive Care Units died before they were discharged from hospital.
- Aberdeen Royal Infirmary Intensive Care Unit has a higher mortality rate compared to the rest of Scotland. The reasons behind a high mortality rate can be complex; therefore an external review has been commissioned to better understand this.
- Glasgow Royal Infirmary Intensive Care Unit has a lower mortality rate compared to the rest of Scotland.
- Some patients continue to experience delays in being discharged from critical care. The main reason identified for the delays were a shortage of beds in other areas of the hospital.
- In 2015, 2.8% of patients developed a Healthcare Associated Infection (1.3% developed pneumonia, and 1.5% had a bloodstream infection). The level of infection is unchanged from 2014.
- For most bloodstream infections, there was a central venous catheter in place around the time of infection.

Background

Critical care units are specialist hospital wards for the most severely ill or injured patients.

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 is a co-ordinated quality improvement programme which provides data, analysis and feedback to raise standards and continued improvement in patient outcomes.

Contact

Paul Smith

Clinical Co-ordinator

psmith44@nhs.net

Tel 0141 282 2146

Lorraine Smyth

Senior Information Analyst

lorraine.smyth@nhs.net

0131 275 6529

Find out more

Further information can be found on the Scottish Intensive Care Society Audit Group website <http://www.sicsag.scot.nhs.uk/index.html>.

The full report, detailed excel tables and previous publications can be accessed [here](#)

Further information on Healthcare Associated Infections in Intensive Care Units is available [here](#).

The next update of this publication will be in August 2017.

ISD and 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. [Find out more about our statistics.](#)