

Audit of Critical Care in NHSScotland - Annual report

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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 2016 in NHSScotland.

Main points

- The audit covers over 46,000 patients admitted to critical care units in NHSScotland during 2016.
- 20% of patients admitted to Intensive Care Units died before they were discharged from hospital.
- No unit was found to have a significantly higher mortality rate compared to the rest of Scotland.
- Some patients continue to experience delays in being discharged from critical care, mainly as a result of shortages of beds in other areas of the hospital.
- In 2016, 2.7% of patients in intensive care units developed a Healthcare Associated Infection.

Background

Critical care units are specialist hospital wards for the most severely ill or injured patients. They treat patients with a high level of complexity, with two out of three patients requiring the most advanced levels of support.

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.

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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 2018.

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.](#)