Audit of Critical Care in NHSScotland
- Annual report
Scottish Intensive Care Society Audit Group
A management information publication for Scotland

Publication date: 14 August 2018

About this release
This release 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.

Main Points
- 19% 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.
- Shortage of beds was a theme impacting on critical care in 2017. Units were not always able to discharge their patients at an appropriate time with 22% and 25% of discharges from High Dependency Units and Intensive Care Units delayed more than four hours respectively. This is also reflected in figures for night time discharges and early discharges.
- Overall there has been improvement in units attaining the minimum standards and quality indicators from 2016, however some remain challenging for units.
- In 2017, 2.7% of patients in intensive care units developed a Healthcare Associated Infection and this remains unchanged from 2016.

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. This audit includes all Intensive Care Units and the majority of High Dependency Units in 2017 in NHSScotland. It is not possible to provide an accurate figure on the number of High Dependency Units due to differing provisions across all specialties and Health Boards however it is believed that more than 95% of all High Dependency Units participates in this audit. The audit covers over 46,000 patients admitted to critical care units in NHSScotland during 2017.

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

SICSAG Email: NSS.sicsg@nhs.net

Further Information

The full report including detailed excel tables and previous publications can be accessed on the SICSAG Annual Reports page on the SICSAG website.

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

Further information on Healthcare Associated Infections in Intensive Care Units is available from the HAI in Intensive Care Unit Surveillance web page.

The next update of this publication will be in August 2019.

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. Further information about our statistics.