

## Number of admissions, age, unit length of stay, number of bed days due to delayed discharge, post-unit length of stay and mortality for admissions to critical care in England, Wales and Northern Ireland with a delayed discharge to the ward of 24 hours or more

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### Questions

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What were the number of admissions, age, unit length of stay, number of bed days due to delayed discharge, post-unit length of stay and mortality for admissions, with a delayed discharge to the ward of 24 hours or more, to adult, general critical care units, cardiothoracic units and neurological units in England, Wales and Northern Ireland participating in the Case Mix Programme from 1 April 2013 to 30 September 2013?

### Available data for report

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56,375 admissions to 192 critical care units for the period 1 April 2013 – 30 September 2013, this includes:

- 182 adult, general critical care units (161 in England, 12 in Wales, 9 in Northern Ireland);
- 6 cardiothoracic critical care units (6 in England, 0 in Wales, 0 in Northern Ireland); and
- 4 neurological critical care units (4 in England, 0 in Wales, 0 in Northern Ireland).

### Selection of Cases

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All admissions to adult, general critical care units, cardiothoracic units and neurological units in England, Wales and Northern Ireland that were participating in the CMP from 1 April 2013 to 30 September 2013.

## Definitions for variables included

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An admission was identified as a delayed discharge to the ward of 24hours or more if:

- the duration from the date/time the patient was fully ready to leave the critical care unit and the date/time the patient was eventually discharged from the unit was greater than or equal to 24hours
- the location after leaving the critical care unit was given as 'ward'

Age was the age in whole years at the point of admission to the critical care unit.

The critical care unit length of stay was the duration in days from the date and time of admission to the critical care unit to the date and time of discharge from the critical care unit or the date and time of death.

The bed days occupied due to the delayed discharge was calculated by summing the total number of days in which each patient occupied a bed in the unit, using the date and time the patient was fully ready to leave the critical care unit and the date and time of eventual discharge from the critical care unit.

The post-unit acute hospital length of stay was the duration in days from the date and time of discharge from the critical care unit to the date and time of death or discharge from acute hospital.

Acute hospital mortality was defined as the status at ultimate discharge from acute hospital, wherever.

## Results

Number of admissions, age, unit length of stay, number of bed days due to delayed discharge, post-unit length of stay and mortality for admissions to critical care units in England, Wales and Northern Ireland with a delayed discharge to the ward of 24 hours or more, 1 April 2013 – 30 September 2013

**Table 1: Adult, general critical care units in England**

1 April 2013 – 30 September 2013	
Number of admissions with a delayed discharge to the ward of 24 hours or more (%) [N]	4,457 (9.6) [46,517]
Age, mean (SD) [N]	63.9 (16.9) [4,457]
Unit length of stay (days), [N]	[4,457]
-Mean (SD)	7.7 (8.5)
-Median (IQR)	4.9 (3.0,8.7)
Total number of bed days due to delayed discharge	9,389
Acute hospital mortality*, deaths (%) [N]	384 (8.7) [4,397]
Post-unit acute hospital length of stay* (days)	
-Survivors, median (IQR) [N]	9 (4,20) [3,993]
-Non-survivors, median (IQR) [N]	9 (4,23) [384]
-All, mean (SD) [N]	17.4 (23.1) [4,383]

N: number of admissions; SD: standard deviation; IQR: interquartile range.

\*Excluding readmissions to the critical care unit

**Table 2: Adult, general critical care units in Wales**

1 April 2013 – 30 September 2013	
Number of admissions with a delayed discharge to the ward of 24 hours or more (%) [N]	528 (19.9) [2,657]
Age, mean (SD) [N]	62.7 (16.9) [528]
Unit length of stay (days), [N]	[528]
-Mean (SD)	9.4 (11.4)
-Median (IQR)	5.4 (3.2,10.8)
Total number of bed days due to delayed discharge	1170
Acute hospital mortality*, deaths (%) [N]	60 (11.5) [521]
Post-unit acute hospital length of stay* (days)	
-Survivors, median (IQR) [N]	10 (5,23) [458]
-Non-survivors, median (IQR) [N]	23 (6.5,40.5) [60]
-All, mean (SD) [N]	21.2 (26.9) [519]

N: number of admissions; SD: standard deviation; IQR: interquartile range.

\*Excluding readmissions to the critical care unit

**Table 3: Adult, general critical care units in Northern Ireland**

1 April 2013 – 30 September 2013	
Number of admissions with a delayed discharge to the ward of 24 hours or more (%) [N]	342 (14.1) [2,424]
Age, mean (SD) [N]	63.4 (15.8) [342]
Unit length of stay (days), [N]	[342]
-Mean (SD)	7.6 (7.2)
-Median (IQR)	5.1 (3.3,8.8)
Total number of bed days due to delayed discharge	677
Acute hospital mortality*, deaths (%) [N]	28 (8.4) [334]
Post-unit acute hospital length of stay* (days)	
-Survivors, median (IQR) [N]	10 (5,23) [306]
-Non-survivors, median (IQR) [N]	11.5 (5.5,26) [28]
-All, mean (SD) [N]	19.1 (25.8) [335]

N: number of admissions; SD: standard deviation; IQR: interquartile range.

\*Excluding readmissions to the critical care unit

**Table 4: Cardiothoracic critical care units in England**

	1 April 2013 – 30 September 2013
Number of admissions with a delayed discharge to the ward of 24 hours or more (%) [N]	86 (2.5) [3,438]
Age, mean (SD) [N]	65.5 (13.8) [86]
Unit length of stay (days), [N]	[86]
-Mean (SD)	11.3 (15.2)
-Median (IQR)	4.9 (3.0,11.7)
Total number of bed days due to delayed discharge	152
Acute hospital mortality*, deaths (%) [N]	4 (4.8) [83]
Post-unit acute hospital length of stay* (days)	
-Survivors**, median (IQR) [N]	8 (3,15) [79]
-All, mean (SD) [N]	13.8 (15.9) [85]

N: number of admissions; SD: standard deviation; IQR: interquartile range.

\*Excluding readmissions to the critical care unit

\*\*Non-survivors not shown due to small numbers

**Table 5: Neurological critical care units in England**

	1 April 2013 – 30 September 2013
Number of admissions with a delayed discharge to the ward of 24 hours or more (%) [N]	58 (4.3) [1,339]
Age, mean (SD) [N]	56.7 (16.9) [58]
Unit length of stay (days), [N]	[58]
-Mean (SD)	11.9 (14.1)
-Median (IQR)	6.3 (3.5,14.3)
Total number of bed days due to delayed discharge	114
Acute hospital mortality*, deaths (%) [N]	9 (16.4) [55]
Post-unit acute hospital length of stay* (days)	
-Survivors**, median (IQR) [N]	24.5 (7,59) [46]
-All, mean (SD) [N]	40.4 (40.8) [57]

N: number of admissions; SD: standard deviation; IQR: interquartile range.

\*Excluding readmissions to the critical care unit

\*\*Non-survivors not shown due to small numbers

## Acknowledgement

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“These data derive from the Case Mix Programme Database. The Case Mix Programme is the national, comparative audit of patient outcomes from adult critical care coordinated by the Intensive Care National Audit & Research Centre (ICNARC). These analyses are based on data for 56,375 admissions to 192 critical care units based in NHS hospitals geographically spread across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. For more information on the representativeness and quality of these data, please contact ICNARC.”