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Our privacy policy is
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Improving critical care

LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE
FOR THE BENEFIT OF FUTURE
PATIENTS

Ensuring high quality critical care

Delivering the best possible care is at the heart of any intensive care unit and patient information, when analysed across all units, provides an invaluable resource for improving patient outcomes. Information (data) on every patient in the unit is collected by unit staff. The data is then sent to an independent charity called ICNARC (Intensive Care National Audit & Research Centre). ICNARC analyse the data and send the results back to the unit. The health care team in this unit can use these results to improve the care they give their patients. This process is called an audit.

This audit is called the Case Mix Programme (CMP). The Government recommends that all intensive care units take part in the CMP audit. It is important for units to have independent feedback so they can improve patient care.

What information is collected?

- Patient details – NHS Number, date of birth, sex, ethnicity, postcode
 - When the patient was admitted to the unit and where from (e.g. emergency department)
 - Why the patient needed intensive care
 - What treatment was given and the results of the treatment
 - When the patient left the unit and where they went next (e.g. ward)
- No names or addresses are collected

Who collects this information?

A trained member of staff from this unit collects the information about each patient and enters it onto a computer.

How is this information used?

The information (data) collected in each intensive care unit is sent to ICNARC. ICNARC brings together and analyses data from units across the UK. They then send out a confidential report to each unit. This report shows how each unit compares with similar units in the UK in terms of the care it provides and the results of this care. This helps ensure all hospitals consistently maintain the best possible patient outcomes. See www.icnarc.org for other ways in which ICNARC use information to improve patient care.

How secure is this information?

ICNARC has a very secure computer system and strict information security policies that are reviewed annually.

Does my information need to be included?

The national data opt-out is a service that allows patients to opt-out of their confidential patient information (data) being used in circumstances other than their direct care. To carry out the CMP audit, ICNARC have been given special permission so that the national data opt-out is not applied. This is because the absence of patient data can mean inaccurate reports, leading to delays in, or prevention of, units identifying areas of improvement.

If you don't want your data to be used, you do have the right to request that it isn't sent to ICNARC, irrespective of the national data opt-out exemption. You can do so by discussing this with a member of the healthcare team on this unit. This will not affect the care and treatment provided.

For information on how we use our data and how it is kept secure please visit our website: www.icnarc.org