

What does PICANet do?

PICANet collects anonymous information on all children across the UK and Ireland who are admitted to a paediatric (children's) intensive care unit. You don't need to do anything for your child to be included.

Why is PICANet important?

The information that we collect for PICANet is helping to find out the best ways to treat and care for children who are unwell, so that intensive care services can be better planned for and provided.

How is PICANet funded?

PICANet has been funded by the Children's Medical Research Foundation (CMRF) in Our Lady's Children's Hospital and by the Children's Fund for Health in the Children's University Hospital, Temple Street. PICANet is funded by other organisations for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

What information is needed?

PICANet collects exactly the same information on all children cared for in paediatric intensive care units.

Personal details, like date of birth and hospital number, help us to follow your

child's progress, if they are moved to another paediatric intensive care unit. However your child's name and address are not sent outside the hospital- therefore total anonymity is ensured.

Information about your child's care, treatment and condition is also collected and we can use this data to help plan future paediatric intensive care services.

How is information collected?

A member of staff records details about your child's condition or illness onto a form, from information in their medical notes. This information is then put onto a computer, sent to the University of Leeds and kept there on a computer.

Will the information be safe?

We send all information in a very safe way and keep it stored confidentially on a main computer, which is kept in a safe room. No-one can see the information, unless it is their job to do so.

There is no way at all that your child can be identified in any of our reports.

What will the information be used for?

We use the information to help us write

reports and to decide what further information on children's intensive care is needed to help hospitals plan for the future.

Because we collect a lot of information, it means that we can look at what is happening in Ireland and the United Kingdom and not just in this hospital.

What have we found out so far?

During the past few years, we have shown that about 16,000 children are admitted to paediatric intensive care units in England, Wales and Scotland each year. Almost half of these children are less than one year old. This type of information is useful, because it helps the hospitals and the people who plan health services to know what to expect and to be better prepared.

Does my child have to be included?

If you do not want information on your child included in PICANet, please tell the nurse or doctor caring for your child. Your decision will not alter the care your child receives in this, or any other hospital.

Where can I get more information?

If you have any questions about PICANet you can:

- ask your child's nurse or doctor for more information
- visit the PICANet website (see below)
- email PICANet (see below)
- contact a member of the PICANet team on one of the telephone numbers below

PICANet contact information:

Website: www.picanet.org.uk

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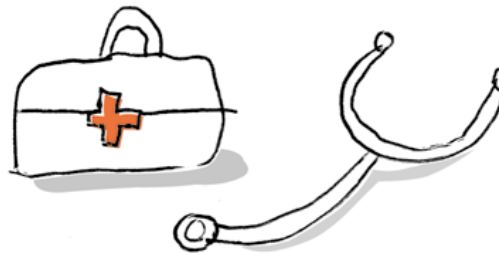
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Paediatric Intensive Care Audit Network

Information leaflet for parents, families and guardians of children admitted to paediatric intensive care



Drawn by Zoe aged 8

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