

UK PICU Staffing Study

*The impact of changing workforce patterns in UK paediatric intensive care services
on staff practice and patient outcomes*

NEWSLETTER 5 (December 2006)

Next phase begins in 2007

We have now approached 12 randomly selected units, inviting each to participate in the prospective part of the study. A big thank you to all 12 units that have officially agreed to take part.

We have completed all R&D documentation for the 12 units, and have gained R&D approval for most units; we hope to gain approval for the remainder in the very near future. Where we have R&D approval, we have already begun site visits in November and December. Of the 12 units, we have visited four to date and Dawn Coleby and Namita Srivastava, have conducted observations and interviews for Phase 2 of the project.

We are very grateful to all staff at the units we have visited so far – everyone has been extremely helpful.

Phase 2 will inform Phase 3 – we are in the process of analysing the data from site visits during Phase 2 in order to develop the staffing log for Phase 3.



What's happening next? In the 12 Participating Units.....

Phase 3

Our researchers will continue to visit the remaining participating units for information to build a unit profile, workforce description and interview key staff. The researchers will also conduct interviews with parent/child pairs, to explore user views and satisfaction. Staff observations (nurse shadowing) will not be undertaken in all remaining units.

Link-research nurses in Phase 3

During the final 12-month phase, there will be identified link-research nurse(s) in each of the 12 units to abstract information about probable Ventilator Associated Pneumonia (VAP) from clinical notes. This is also due to start in 2007 in phase 3. There will be training days and support for the link-research nurse to collect this data. Units have been asked to identify a suitable member of staff to undertake this data extraction. Thank you to the units that have provided us already with the contact information for the research-link nurse. Units that have not yet identified a link-research nurse, please contact Dawn Coleby as soon as possible, who also is co-ordinating the support to the unit for the collection of these data in each of the 12 units.

In addition to the VAP data collection nurse shift leaders will be asked to complete a simple, twice daily staff/patient log - alongside PICANet patient data as usual. The shift leader will be asked to post the completed logs back to the Leicester study centre on a weekly basis. There will also be an anonymous postal survey of PICU staff views and well-being.

Thank you for all your help and co-operation so far, especially during our site visits, and we look forward to visiting more units after Christmas. We'll continue to keep you informed. In the meantime...

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

For more information about the project please see under "research projects" on PICANet website at <http://www.picanet.org.uk/>



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