

Audit Network

Newsletter Summer 2004

Our first annual report for England & Wales

Everyone should all be aware by now that we will be submitting our first annual report to the Department of Health and The Specialist Health Services Commission for Wales at the end of May. The report will include evaluation and analysis of data collected from all units for a full year period. It will provide for the first time national benchmarks for delivery of paediatric intensive care. Every unit will receive a copy of this report.

To enable us to meet this timescale we have asked all units to submit their data for the time period 1st March 2003 to 29th February 2004 to PICA Net by **31st March**. This will allow time for validation checks to be carried out and for any alterations to be corrected by the units before the analysis and report writing can begin.

If you foresee any problems with sending your data for this time period within the specified time-scale please get in touch with PICA Net as soon as possible. We would prefer to try and solve problems at an early stage (contact details are displayed at the bottom of this newsletter).

Our first annual meeting

Following the publication of the first annual PICA Net report we will be holding an annual meeting to present the report and discuss our findings. The meeting will be held in the main lecture theatre at the Royal Statistical Society in London on Thursday 24th June. We have enclosed a flyer advertising this event, and would be most grateful if you would display this in your unit. Anyone involved in PICA Net is welcome and attendance is free of charge, however it should be noted that we are unable to pay any travel expenses for the day. PICA Net will be sending out invitations to all units shortly, but we wanted you to put the date in your diaries as soon as possible. We will have a number of slots available during the day for individuals to present any relevant research. If you have a study that you would like to present please contact the PICA Net team as soon as possible.

Validation of your data

You will shortly be receiving a validation report in the post and by email based upon the data you have sent to PICA Net. This will inform you of any alterations that need to be made to your data before it can be used in the annual report. The report will look at all the variables collected for PICA Net - in particular the PIM values, missing data values and diagnosis coding. We appreciate that this will mean additional work for you but would stress that in order for the report to be as accurate as possible the data quality needs to be good. When you receive your validation report please contact Nicky, Sam or Roger who will help you work through any problems and clarify any outstanding issues. In some instances this may mean Nicky, Sam or Roger visiting you to help with the amendments.

Our website

Our website, www.picanet.org.uk, is now up and running. You should have all received your username and password to allow you access to the members only section. In this, you will find minutes of all PICA Net meetings plus PICA Net operating procedures and other useful information. If you don't know your username or password, please get in touch with Gill, our clerical support assistant in Sheffield.

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