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**PICANet** 

**Paediatric Intensive Care  
Audit Network**



Information Leaflet for families and  
carers of children admitted to  
paediatric intensive care.

**If you would like to know  
more about PICANet you can:**

Talk to the **Doctors and Nurses**

Email [picanet@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:picanet@leeds.ac.uk)

Visit our website at  
[www.picanet.org.uk](http://www.picanet.org.uk)

Or

Call our **Research Nurse**,  
Caroline Lamming on

**0116 252 5414**

Or write to Caroline at:

[crl4@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:crl4@leicester.ac.uk)

Or by post at:

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### What does PICANet do?

PICANet collects information on all children who are admitted to a paediatric (childrens) intensive care service. 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 very ill, so that intensive care services can be better planned for and provided in the future.

### How is PICANet funded?

Funding is provided by the National Clinical Audit & Patient Outcomes Programme administered by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) for England, Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee, NHS Lothian – University Hospitals Division, The Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, National Office of Clinical Audit Ireland (NOCA) and HCA International.

### How is information collected?

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

### What information is needed?

PICANet collects exactly the same information on all children cared for in paediatric intensive care units and by the specialist paediatric intensive care transport services.

Personal details, like name and date of birth, help us to follow your child's progress if they are moved to another paediatric intensive care unit. Information about your child's care, treatment and condition is also collected. We can use your postcode to help plan future paediatric intensive care services in your area.

### What will the information be used for?

We use the information to help us write reports and to decide what further information on childrens 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 all over the country and not just in this hospital.

We have also linked up with the other databases; so that we can see how your child's health is after they have left the intensive care unit.

### 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 secure 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 have we found out so far?

During the past few years, we have shown that over 19,000 children are admitted to the paediatric intensive care service in the United Kingdom and Ireland 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 which would identify your child included in PICANet, please tell the nurse or doctor caring for your child. Alternatively, please contact PICANet by telephone or email (details provided overleaf) and we will ensure that your child's personal data is removed from the database. You are free to withdraw at any time and any decision to withdraw will not alter the care your child receive in this or any other hospital.

