



Paediatric Intensive Care Audit Network

An international database of paediatric intensive care in the United Kingdom and Ireland
run by the Universities of Leeds & Leicester

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?

In Ireland funding is provided by the National Office of Clinical Audit Ireland (NOCA). PICANet is funded by other organisations for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

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. 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.

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 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 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 over 19,000 children are admitted to the paediatric intensive care service in Ireland and the United Kingdom 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.

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.

