

Paediatric Intensive Care Audit Network

PICANet Update

PICANet's value as a resource for audit and research has become more evident as the number of requests for data and information keep coming in. Please keep the data flowing and bear with the inevitable delays in dealing with your data requests that result from our small staff complement. Note that we publish all data requests on our website. Those requests that cover research questions using national data are also reviewed by PICS SG to ensure that there is a co-ordinated approach to research in PIC.

We have discussed expanding our remit by facilitating the collection of the new Paediatric Critical Care Minimum Data Set and a proposed retrievals and refusals dataset (see below).

Future Funding Confirmed!

We have been notified by the Department of Health that funding will continue for PICANet for another year until 31 October 2007. We would like to recognise the support of the University of Leeds during the recent financial uncertainty, who had offered to underwrite staff salaries.

PICANet Team News

The recruitment of a new member of staff, vital for the future development of PICANet, is underway. We are hoping to fill the post of **database manager/analyst** by early 2007 and anticipate that the successful candidate will be involved in all routine duties, as well as projects, such as developing a web-based interface for online data input and interactive database interrogation.

IT News Update

New PICANet server

The new central server and the necessary infrastructure are still being set up and tested at Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust. This means **YOU WILL STILL NOT BE ABLE TO SEND DATA VIA NHSnet.**



Please continue to use the option to export the data to a folder and send the encrypted files via email to Roger Parslow AND Angie Willshaw (r.c.parslow@leeds.ac.uk; a.willshaw@leeds.ac.uk). We will let you know when you can start using the export via NHSnet option again. If you have any queries, please contact Roger or Krish Thiru (thiruk1@gosh.nhs.uk). Those units who have tried this method have managed to do so successfully. As the files are encrypted, there is no risk of the data being viewed by anyone other than PICANet staff.

Validation reports

The distribution of validation reports has been interrupted during the summer due to server downtime. We have set up the server temporarily to produce these reports and you should have received these in October. Hopefully, we will be producing validation reports from the new server in November.

Validation Visits

Validation visits will resume once we have a research nurse in post at Leicester. We regard validation visits as an important element of data quality assurance and a useful forum to discuss any ongoing problems with the units and provide positive feedback on their data entry.

UK PICU Staffing Survey

This study aims to investigate the impact of changing workforce patterns in UK PIC services on staff practice and patient outcomes. Ethical approval has now been granted and the prospective part of the study (Phase 2) is about to begin, with the research staff visiting randomly chosen units. Phase 3 will commence in 2007. For more information, see www.picanet.org.uk for a link to the latest Staffing Survey newsletter.

PICS Annual Meeting

The PICS annual scientific meeting is being held in Glasgow on 16-17th November (see <http://www.picsglasgow2006.org>)

Paediatric Health Informatics

The Pan Thames Paediatric Intensive Care Health Informatics Group (PHiG) have finalised their Terms of Reference. The aims of PHiG are to develop, evaluate and advise commissioners and providers on PICU related health informatics initiatives within the region. This includes any initiative involved in the collation, interpretation and management of clinical and administrative information required to support both inpatient and ambulance retrieval services for PICU.

Several work programmes have been initiated, including a review of Healthcare Resource Group and Payment by Results dataset requirements, a retrieval data collection & reporting system, and a Clinical Systems review. The group aims to meet 3-4 times a year, although project-specific meetings are likely to be more frequent.

A national Health Informatics Specialist Group is also currently being established within the Paediatric Intensive Care Society (PICS), to:-

- ensure that regional developments are in line with national PICU needs and NHS information technology policy (<http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk>)
- promote research and development in this field.

This PICS Group will meet for the first time in Glasgow at the PICS 2006 conference.

Contact Krish Thiru or Dr P Ramnarayan (RamnaP@gosh.nhs.uk) for issues regarding health informatics within PICU. For PICU-related commissioning / informatics issues, please contact S. Rowe (stuart.rowe@hf-pct.nhs.uk).

Paediatric Critical Care Minimum Dataset

There have recently been proposals that PICANet become involved in developments that are taking place within the wider PICU context. It has been suggested that the expertise within PICANet could be utilised to help in the collection of data to help determine appropriate HRGs for the impending Payment by Results scheme. Whilst this idea is in its infancy, there appears to be a lot of support from PICU staff for this.

Retrievals & Refusals Dataset

There was general agreement at this year's PICANet Annual Meeting that there are two important areas that need more robust data collection:

- refused admissions to PICU &
- the retrieval process.

These data are not presently collected by PICANet.

In the period 2004-2005, 58% of admissions to participating units were from other hospitals and were either retrieved or transferred to PICU. Currently, the data collected about these retrievals are minimal. Furthermore, there is variation in how retrieval services are organised across the country, but we lack comprehensive data to describe this.

The early hours of a child's illness may be a very important determinant of outcome. Information about refused admissions and/or retrievals to PICU for non-clinical reasons is, therefore, clearly important and will be useful in building a case for future adequate service provision.

To try and address these areas, Allan Wardhaugh has been working on behalf of PICANet with the National Paediatric Retrieval Group to develop a system for collecting this data.

The dataset is now well developed, and will be presented to the Paediatric Intensive Care Society council in November. It is hoped that the PICANet dataset can be expanded to include this and data collection could start in the new year.

For anyone wishing to make additional constructive suggestions in relation to this area, the dataset draft versions can be viewed at <http://www.cardiffpicu.com/pages/nprg.html>.

Comments can be passed directly to Allan from this site.

PICANet National Report

Both PICANet's Steering and Clinical Advisory Groups recently agreed that there should be open access to the



National Report on the PICANet website, in light of the fact that the report is in the public domain and that the Freedom of Information Act means that access cannot be denied. The password

protection has now been removed from the report and it is now **freely available** to all to read online and download.

We are anticipating that there will be a National Report produced for 2007. We would like to take this opportunity to ask for any feedback or suggestions on desired content or format of the Report. For instance, we are considering alternative methods of presenting the data, e.g. by placing the bulk of the Tables & Figures onto CD, in an attempt to reduce paper, printing and posting costs. If you have any ideas, please email them to Angie Willshaw and these will be passed onto the PICANet Team.

PICANet Annual Meeting

After the successful Annual Meeting held at the Perinatal Institute in Birmingham in June, we are still looking to improve the usefulness of the day for our attendees. We would welcome your ideas on the format, presentations, timing and discussions that you would like to see on the day. Your feedback indicated that Birmingham was appreciated as a central venue, but you also told us that more people would have liked to have attended, so we need a larger facility.

Please email Angie with suggestions for well-priced, accessible venues in good locations that can cater for 100 attendees.

Dates for your Diary

Next meeting of the Clinical Advisory Group:
Thursday 1st March 2007

Next meeting of the Steering Group:
Autumn 2007

If you would like an issue to be raised at either forum, please contact one of the group representatives or a PICANet team member.

Information and Data Requests

If there is any information or data that you feel PICANet could supply, to help you with your research or reports, please download and submit the Research Request Forms from the website or contact Angie Willshaw. You can find an up-to-date list of such research requests on the PICANet website. For advice on the nature of your request, please contact Roger Parslow.



PICANet Contact Details

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