
Paediatric Intensive Care Audit Network

PICU Audit Put Out to Tender

The PICANet team successfully put in an expression of interest to the recent call for bids to tender for a Paediatric Intensive Care Audit in England. A bid is now being prepared by the PICANet team for submission to the Health Care Commission, to run the audit for a 2 year period from April 2008 to March 2010. The deadline is November 26th and we will keep everyone informed of the outcome. It is hoped that our successfully established partnerships with the clinical community, commissioners and other stakeholders will be recognised as one of our strengths.

IT News

PICANet software update

All units have now been sent the web link (<http://www.picanet.org.uk/update.htm>) to the PICANet software update, which enables collection of the paediatric critical care minimum dataset (PCCMDS). Units will soon be receiving an updated version, which will give them the facility to export this in a suitable format for their trusts to use for the commissioning dataset (CDS). The CDS is submitted to the Secondary Uses Service to support Payment by Results (PbR).



The PICANet Clinical Advisory Group (which met recently on 03/10/07) recommended that all units involved in PICANet should also be encouraged to return the enhanced dataset to PICANet, as it contains more detailed information on daily activity. The PICANet team will help individual units to achieve this.

Data definitions for the new PCCMDS data items will be provided as an additional section in the PICANet Data Definitions Manual, along with the relevant sections from the official guidance sent out regarding the PCCMDS.

The redesigned PICANet Data Collection Form has also been distributed to all units who requested it.

Please do contact Tom Fleming, if you have any questions regarding the software (contact details supplied at the end of the newsletter).

Validation Visits

After a lengthy gap due to staffing shortages, Caroline Lamming (the PICANet Research Nurse) is recommencing validation visits to the units. As before, Krish Thiru will be visiting the Pan Thames units

The purpose of these visits is to assess the completeness and quality of data submitted to PICANet. They also provide an opportunity to discuss data collection and other issues relating to audit and research in PIC.

Caroline and Krish will be planning the series of validation visits. If you wish to request an early visit to your unit or to discuss any other relevant issue, please contact Caroline or Krish (contact details located at the end of this newsletter).

NHS Number Appeal!

In this year's National Report (2007), the PICANet team noted that the overall figure for collection of NHS number is not as high as was hoped.

We would like to make an appeal to those of you involved in data collection and entry to make every effort to provide a valid NHS number, where possible.

The NHS number is vital to allow record linkage with other datasets. The PCCMDS must be linked to patient administration systems using personal identifiers, to enable effective data returns and the NHS number is a key identifier. It is also useful for linkage to external data such as the Hospital Episodes Statistics and ONS death certificate data.

PICANet National Report 2007

This year, we changed the format of the National Report by making it freely available to view, download and print off directly from the PICANet website. This means that you can pick and choose which elements of the report you would like to have as a hard copy. We hope that you appreciate being able to access the report in this way: this allows us to save on printing and distribution costs, as well as considering the obvious environmental issues.

We have sent out one paper copy to each unit. Please could you make sure this is available to all staff and is not locked away in an office.

The report summarises data from 2004 to 2006. We have included summary data by the new SHA structure and also by primary care organisation.

Review of Annual Meeting in Leeds

The meeting was held at the University of Leeds Business School on 4th July 2007. Although fewer people attended than in previous years, the feedback from those who attended has been positive and indicates that most people felt the day was interesting and relevant. However, it may be time for a change.

If you have any ideas about how we might improve the format of the meeting or if you feel that a more radical overhaul is needed, please let us know your thoughts. The meetings are intended to be for your benefit and we are guided by what you tell us.

A North American Experience

Krish Thiru, Pan Thames Co-ordinator, PICANet

In 2006, I was awarded a bursary from the David Newton Scheme at Great Ormond Street Hospital, giving me the opportunity to visit some of the most renowned healthcare organisations in the USA and Canada involved in the development and implementation of Electronic Patient Records. After a year of making contacts and arrangements, my 3 week-long bursary visit began at Boston in August 2007.

At the Children's Hospital Boston and Massachusetts General Hospital, I looked at recent developments in their clinical systems and Health Informatics Program. In Washington, I visited the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), which houses one of the most comprehensive electronic patient records systems in use. The VA system is publicly funded and is a showcase for how electronic patient records can operate across complex healthcare boundaries, improving efficiency, saving money and improving quality of care. The VA system has many UK visitors, who would like to emulate its success and develop a similar system in the UK. The public/private partnership, through which the system continues to be developed, is truly inspiring.

In Canada, I visited the Fraser and Victoria Island Health Authorities (located in Vancouver, British Columbia) and iCare in Edmonton, Alberta.



Canada has embarked on its own [eHealth Strategy](#) (equivalent to the [National Programme for Information Technology - Connecting for Health](#)).

Reorganisation of healthcare funding in Canada requires that previously divided healthcare bodies increasingly work together; different regions are consolidating and merging their electronic records, focusing on patient and population management. They face very similar problems to those experienced in UK PICUs; varied, complex systems working in disparate organisational contexts, being asked to share and compare data and practice. The processes used by Canadian Health Authorities to merge their systems can help to guide progress in the UK.

The most enjoyable part of the trip was meeting the people who work in this field, many of whom I intend to keep in touch with and, if possible, collaborate with on future work. The down side was being continuously on the move. I ended my trip with a quick tour of the Canadian Rockies, with not a plug socket in sight!



Thank you to the David Newton Bursary Scheme

Congratulations, Dr. Parslow!

Roger Parslow was successful in his recent viva voce examination of his PhD thesis. Roger has also moved on to become a Senior Lecturer at the University of Leeds, which means that his role as senior research fellow on the PICANet project has become vacant. The recruitment process is now underway to find his replacement (details will be advertised in the Guardian, on www.leeds.ac.uk/jobs & www.jobs.ac.uk). Roger will, however, continue to have input into the running and development of PICANet

Update on PICANet Research Projects

PICANet Mortality Study

The PICU mortality study, mentioned in Newsletter 19, is still at the data entry stage. Approximately 4000 paper copies of death certificates have been obtained from a cohort of around 35,000 PICANet admissions from the Office for National Statistics. Information from the death certificates has to be manually inputted and data entry has been slower than anticipated, due to a high number of queries concerning the accuracy of Cause of Death coding. However, it is anticipated that analyses of the mortality data will begin in approximately two months time.

Help make HES a SUCCESS!!

[Hospital Episode Statistics \(HES\)](#) is a centralised dataset of hospital admissions collected through local Patient Administration Systems (PAS) or Patient Information Management (PiM) systems. HES is run by [The Information Centre for Health and Social Care](#) and the [Secondary User Services](#). The data, which has more than 12 million new records added each year, contains details of all admissions to NHS hospitals in England.

In this forthcoming study, PICANet patient records will be linked to the HES dataset and data extracted on their hospital admissions. This data will act a rich source of information for PICANet to investigate the passage of PICU patients through the health system and the care they receive. The data will also help us to further validate and enrich the PICANet data.

As mentioned above, in order that good linkage between the datasets is maintained, PICANet needs a high standard of **NHS number** recording.

All units are encouraged to ensure high levels of NHS number recording in 2008. The data you need is located in your local PiM/Hospital Administration Systems. Thank you in advance for the extra efforts you make in this regard.

Krish Thiru, Pan Thames Co-ordinator PICANet

Survey of the incidence, aetiology, treatment and outcome of children admitted to paediatric intensive care in refractory convulsive status epilepticus (RCSE).

PICANet asks for your support and assistance with this project; funded by the Epilepsy Research Foundation, it is a 2 year prospective and national survey of all children admitted to PICU with RCSE. Units will be asked to complete a simple questionnaire for each child admitted (most of the information can be extracted from the case notes). A fee of £25 will be paid for each questionnaire returned. Ethical permission has been granted. This is a request for all units to agree to participate in this important study.

Please contact Richard Appleton, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, Royal Liverpool Children's NHS Trust (email: richard.appleton@rlc.nhs.uk or picanet@leeds.ac.uk) if your unit is willing to participate or for further information.

Bronchiolitis Audit

In December 2007 and January 2008, PICANet will be collaborating with clinicians to audit children aged less than 1 year, who are transferred to a PICU (excluding the Pan Thames region) with an acute respiratory problem diagnosed as bronchiolitis. The audit will identify if these children have had access to non-invasive ventilation (NIV) prior to their PICU admission. We hope that all units will be happy to answer two additional questions for each child included in the audit, providing the name of the hospital to which the child was first admitted and stating if the child received NIV prior to their PICU admission. Units will be contacted with details of this audit.

Reminder for Next Year's Annual Report

This is an advanced warning that next year, PICANet will need to collect **all admissions data for 2007 AND January/February 2008** for the next PICANet National Report. This is so that complete data for staffing can be included in next year's report. With your cooperation, we are

hoping that this will not cause too many problems!

Information and Data Requests

As always, PICANet welcomes and encourages requests for information. 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 research requests on the PICANet website.

We would like to remind you that we are unable to supply any patient identifiable data in line with the Data Protection Act (1998). This also pertains to individuals who can be identified by virtue of belonging to small subgroups, for example those with a rare diagnosis. For advice on this and other issues, please contact Tom Fleming or Roger Parslow.



PICANet Contact Details

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