

Announcements

The Department of Health has commissioned the Universities of Sheffield, Leicester and Leeds to establish a national audit system for paediatric intensive care in England. The National Assembly for Wales has commissioned the extension of this audit to Wales. The project officially started on 1st November 2001 and will run for 36 months in the first instance.

Acknowledgements

The consortium wishes to thank the paediatric intensive care community for its support during the 12 month commissioning process. In particular we acknowledge the invaluable contribution of PICNET, PICS-SG and the UK PICOS teams, without whom the project would not have got off the ground.

Project Organisation

A Steering Group will oversee the implementation and management of PICANet. The membership of the steering group is awaiting confirmation at the time of going to press. There will be representatives of medical and nursing paediatric intensive care professionals, epidemiology, statistics, and the NHS information authority. A Clinical Advisory group will be established to provide clinical advice and support to both the Steering Group and the management team. The management team will consist of the principal applicants and the 3 Research Fellows working on the project.

Lead Centres



Trent Institute for Health Services Research, SchARR, University of Sheffield.

Mr. Chris McCabe,
Dr. Gareth Parry,
Ms. Samantha Jones



Trent Institute for Health Services Research, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Leicester
Mrs. Elizabeth Draper,
Professor Mike Clarke



Paediatric Epidemiology Group, Unit of Epidemiology and Health Services Research, University of Leeds
Dr. Tricia McKinney,
Mr. Roger Parslow

Introducing the team

Chris McCabe is a Senior Lecturer in Health Economics in the Trent Institute for Health Services Research, at SchARR. He is currently working on the UK validation of the Health Utilities Index quality of life measure for use in paediatric intensive care. His previous research includes looking at the long term outcomes of survivors of neonatal intensive care and the recently published UK Neonatal Staffing Study which looked at

the impact of structural characteristics on outcome and costs in neonatal intensive care.

Gareth Parry is a Senior Research Fellow in the Medical Care Research Unit at SchARR. He leads the MRC funded UK PICOS study currently running in paediatric intensive care units throughout the UK. His previous research includes the development of the CRIB score, CRIB II and the recently published UK Neonatal Staffing Study which looked at the impact of structural characteristics on outcome and costs in neonatal intensive care.

Samantha Jones is a Research Fellow in the Medical Care Research Unit at SchARR. She is currently the Project Manager of the United Kingdom Paediatric Intensive Care Outcome Study (UK PICOS). Before arriving at SchARR, Sam worked for the Clinical Trial Service Unit at Oxford University.

Tricia McKinney is a Reader in Paediatric Epidemiology and Director of the Paediatric Epidemiology group at the University of Leeds Medical School, she has a broad experience of epidemiological and health service research in chronic paediatric conditions. Her interest in the current study is to lead on the describing the epidemiology of critical illness.

Roger Parslow is a research fellow within the Paediatric Epidemiology Group and has mainly worked on modelling the relationship between environmental exposures and chronic childhood disease. He has extensive experience in manipulating and validating large datasets from local, national and international studies.

Liz Draper is a Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health in

Leicester and Deputy Director of the Trent Infant Mortality and Morbidity Studies. This comprises the Trent Confidential Enquiry into Stillbirths and Deaths in Infancy (part of the national CESDI program), the Trent Neonatal Survey, the Trent Congenital Anomalies Register, the Trent Paediatric Intensive Care Study and the Leicestershire Perinatal Mortality Survey. She is also a principle investigator on a European 5th Framework project investigating access to intensive care for very preterm births across Europe. She has been appointed an Honorary Specialist in Reproductive and Paediatric Epidemiology by Leicestershire Health Authority.

Mike Clarke is Head of Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Leicester and Director of the Leicester Unit of Trent Institute for Health Services Research. He has a long-standing research experience and interest in reproductive epidemiology, health and health care of the elderly, local vital statistics, perinatal mortality, occupational risks in pregnancy and risks associated with infertility.

Included Centres

The following centres have been identified to us as providing paediatric intensive care in England and Wales. If you know of any centre not on this list contact Sam Jones.

Birmingham Children's Hospital, Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, Addenbrooke's Hospital, North Staffordshire Hospital NHS Trust (Stoke-on-Trent), King's College Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, Guy's Hospital, Hospital, Leeds General Infirmary, University Hospitals of Leicester, Newcastle General Hospital, Queen's Medical Centre, Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children, Royal Brompton Hospital, Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital,

Sheffield Children's Hospital, Southampton General Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital (London), St. George's Hospital (London), The John Radcliffe Hospital, University Hospital Lewisham, University Hospital of Wales, St James' University Hospital (Leeds), Royal Victoria Infirmary (Newcastle)

Objectives

The objectives of the project are:

1. To establish a high quality prospective observational clinical database of all admissions to paediatric intensive care units in England and Wales.
2. To produce regular reports on the performance of paediatric intensive care units within England and Wales to support the maintenance of high quality care across the NHS.
3. To establish a Paediatric Intensive Care research network to facilitate the development of high quality research in paediatric intensive care.

Dataset specification

An initial core dataset was specified in the commissioning documentation produced by the Department of Health. This drew heavily upon the work of PICNET and PICS-SG. The final dataset for collection will be approved by the Steering Group based upon discussions between PICANet, the Department of Health and the Steering Group.

We expect that the dataset specification will be reviewed once the UK PICOS study reports on the optimal casemix adjustment methods for paediatric intensive care in No-

Health and Social Care Bill

The Data Protection Act 1998 requires consent for the use of iden-

tifiable data whilst the most recent statutory instrument sanctions the processing of such data under certain conditions, without reference to consent. Blanket requirements for anonymisation of data combined with consent from individuals has the potential to jeopardize the methodological integrity of research and audit. The Health and Social Care Act 2001, Section 60 allows the Secretary of State to exempt approved datasets from this requirement. We are contributing to the current consultation exercise and expect to apply for exemption as soon as the processes are established.

Interesting Links

- <http://www.shef.ac.uk/~scharr/ukpicos>
- <http://www.picnet.org.uk>
- http://www.leeds.ac.uk/medicine/res_school/epid_hsr/
- <http://www.prw.le.ac.uk/research/timms/>

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