

Newsletter Issue 4

December 2002

Unit Visits

Over the past few months Sam, Nicky and Roger have been out visiting all participating PICU's. We are happy to say that most of these visits have now been completed. We hope that those of you able to attend our information sessions found them useful, and that you now have a greater understanding of what PICANet is all about.

We have recently organised a one-day workshop for those units in the South Thames region that have been involved in collecting data for PICANet. These units are mainly in London (with the exception of Brighton). With the agreement of the units themselves, it is hoped that they will have moved over to the PICANet dataset by March 2003. Representatives from these units will be invited to attend a PICANet training session in February 2003, in London. This will allow them to become familiar with the PICANet data collection form and data definition manual, in addition to the PICANet software.

Once these remaining units are up and running, PICANet will then be collecting data from every children's intensive care unit within England and Wales.

In addition, we are very hopeful that Scotland and Northern Ireland will participate in PICANet in the very near future.

Software Update

As many of you will be aware you are unable to send data electronically to PICANet at the present time. This has been due to delays with the NHSNet service provider. We are hopeful that this will be rectified very shortly. Thank you for your patience. Please continue to complete your proformas and enter your data into your database locally.

Health & Social Care Act

An official response has been received from the Patient Information Advisory Group following PICANet's application for exemption to allow the collection of patient identifiable data under Section 60 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001. The application was accepted with the proviso that PICANet look at feasibility of gaining consent to collect such information. A meeting has been arranged in December with three PICU's who are willing to assist PICANet in looking at this process. Look out for more information coming soon.

PICANet Reports

We would welcome your suggestion as to what to include in the PICANet report structure. We are aware that there may be units who are on separate sites but are the same hospital trust and for reporting instances would like to be reported as one unit. If you have any preferences on what the reports should include or comments on how your unit wishes to be reported please contact PICANet.

Data Collection Underway!

Following successful training sessions held in Bristol (September 2002) and Sheffield (October 2002) PICANet data collection began on time on Friday 1st November. A huge thank you to all of you for your help and support.

Contact Details

e-mail: picanet@shef.ac.uk
Nicky Davey: 0116 252 5450
Sam Jones: 0114 222 0772
Roger Parslow: 0113 343 4856

*Merry
Christmas*