
Paediatric Intensive Care Audit Network

Happy New Year All!

PICANet Annual Meeting 2008

The annual meeting proved a great success with positive feedback from all. If you have not returned your comments and would still like to then email [Sarah Skinner](mailto:Sarah.Skinner@picanet.org.uk). Many thanks to Bristol for providing an excellent venue and to all the speakers, attendees and charities who helped make it possible. If you were not able to make it, the presentations and some photos are available at www.picanet.org.uk. We look forward to next years meeting....

National Report

It will soon be the national report time again! Please return your data as frequently as you can now to avoid a rush at the last minute. All data up to the end of 2008 will need to be submitted for the national report. Many units are up to date which is always appreciated but a few units are falling behind. Please let us know if you are having problems. You can help us to help you! Deadline for all 2008 data is 29th Feb 2009.

What does PICU offer the family?

At our annual meeting in Bristol there was a thought provoking presentation by a PICU parent. Following this, PICANet wish to undertake a brief survey of units, to determine the type of information and facilities available to parents and families, whilst their child is a patient in the paediatric intensive care unit.

This questionnaire will soon be circulated to the PICANet nurse contact in your unit and we hope you will be able to complete and return this promptly. Contact [Caroline Lamming](mailto:Caroline.Lamming@picanet.org.uk) for further information.

The Refractory Convulsive Status Epilepticus Study

PICANet are coordinating the collection of data for this important study, funded by the Epilepsy Research Foundation, into the incidence, aetiology, treatment and outcome of children admitted to PICU in refractory convulsive status epilepticus. The study is running from January 1st 2008 – December 31st 2009 in conjunction with Richard Appleton and Tim Maitland,

Consultant Paediatric Neurologists, Alder Hey Children's Hospital and Manchester Children's Hospital respectively.

Thank you to those units who are routinely checking and identifying cases for the study. Twenty-one units initially agreed to take part. However we would welcome any additional units who are interested in participating. We expect that individual units will only admit a small number of children who fulfil the inclusion criteria for the study therefore in order to collect the total numbers of cases required we need to recruit cases from as many units as possible.

A single questionnaire requires completion, for all admitted children fulfilling the study criteria and the data can be extracted retrospectively from the medical records so there is still time to become involved. Each participating PICU will receive £25.00 per child for whom a completed questionnaire is returned to the PICANet Leicester office. Contact [Caroline Lamming](mailto:Caroline.Lamming@picanet.org.uk) for further information.

New Paper Published

A new paper resulting from your PICANet data was published online by Archives of Disease in Childhood. The paper titled 'Epidemiology of critically ill children in England and Wales: incidence, mortality, deprivation and ethnicity' provoked some interest in the media and has been picked up by some major news websites (BBC/Channel 4/Sky and Virgin). <http://adc.bmj.com/onlinefirst.dtl> or see the [press release](#)

Apologies to the 4 units that were initially missed off the acknowledgements. We have corrected this now and we will be vigilant in the future.

PICANet IT Future

The team are planning a major revision of the IT infrastructure that allows collection and reporting of the PICANet data. To keep up with the times, we are proposing to develop web-based data entry that will enable 'live' input of data and instant feedback. This will mean better control of updates that can be performed centrally and the opportunity to 'add-on' local, regional or national data collection modules to facilitate research and audit of specific topics (e.g. clinical trial data or short-term surveys). We will be consulting with the PIC community on what features should be included in the long and short-term.

Please be ready to contribute suggestions on the content and format of the reports produced. The aim is to make access to your data and comparative national data much easier.

The new retrievals dataset developed by Allan Wardhaugh and approved by PICS will be integrated

with this new web-based technology. There will also be the benefit of local reporting tools that can provide data alongside national benchmarks, all on-line.

There is considerable security and technical issues to overcome but we have strong support from HQIP, our funders. They see this as the way forward for all national audits.

In the short term, we are going to provide a simple web-based interrogation tool that will access an anonymised version of your data and aggregated information based on the national dataset. This will provide baseline information on your activity with a national comparison and will be updated as new data are sent to us and processed.



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