



National Paediatric Critical Care Audit

UPCARE: 0.01 Programme name - please do not change this field.*	National Paediatric Critical Care Audit
0.02 Workstream name (if applicable) - please do not change this field.*	Not applicable
0.1 Contract status	Ongoing
0.2 Audit or non-audit	Audit
0.3 HQIP commissioned*	Yes
0.41 HQIP AD	JC
0.42 HQIP PM	CG
1.0 Included in current NHS Quality Accounts*	Yes
1.1a Geographical coverage - HQIP agreement*	England
1.1b Geographical coverage - External agreement*	Wales; Scotland; Northern Ireland; Republic of Ireland
1.2a Topic - please select which ONE of the following best describes the topic area for the programme or workstream. If more than one apply, please select 'Other' and add comment to the next question.*	Other (please describe in next question)
1.2b If you selected 'Other' above, please provide details.*	Child & Adolescent; Paediatric Critical Care
1.3a Healthcare setting*	NHS secondary or tertiary care; Independent sector healthcare (non-NHS); NHS-funded care delivered by independent provider; Paediatric

1.4a Does your patient cohort include the following?*	Under 18s (younger than 18)
1.4b Inclusion and exclusion criteria*	Data is submitted into the secure web-based application database called PICANet Web by Level 2 Paediatric Critical Care (PCC) Units, Paediatric Intensive Care Units (PICUs) and PCC Transport Services for all children and young people (CYP) admitted to designated Level 2 PCC units and/or accepted for referral, transported or admitted to designated PICUs providing paediatric level 3 critical care (as defined by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health). Data is captured for CYP referred for ECMO support and if admitted for ECMO assessment and/ or treatment in the PICUs with ECMO Centres.
1.5 Methods of data submission*	Bespoke data submission by healthcare provider; Extraction from existing data source(s)
1.6a 2023/24 data submission closes - please indicate date, series of dates or frequency.*	Continuous data collection (no closure) 01 Apr 2023 – 31 Mar 2024.
1.6b 2024/25 data submission closes - please indicate date, series of dates or frequency.*	Continuous data collection (no closure) 01 Apr 2024 – 31 Mar 2025.
1.6c 2025/26 data submission closes - please indicate date, series of dates or frequency.*	Continuous data collection (no closure) 01 Apr 2025 – 31 Mar 2026.
1.6d 2026/27 data submission closes - please indicate date, series of dates or frequency.*	Continuous data collection (no closure) 01 Apr 2026 – 31 Mar 2027.
1.7 Data flow diagram	The NPCCA data flows for England, Wales and Scotland are available on the Policies page of the PICANet website: https://www.picanet.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2026/03/PICANet-NPCCA-Data-Flow_v13-Mar2026_England_Wales_Scotland.pdf
1.8 Data quality & analysis plan	The PICANet database has automated internal data validation routines at the point of data entry highlighting data quality issues in real-time e.g. missing / inconsistent data. This is also a validation review tool within PICANet Web, which provides an interactive overview of each organisation's validation queries, covering the number of admission/referral/transport events, timeliness of data entry, completion and validation queries. The PICANet clinical validation team support data quality in the following ways:

- Providing 4-6 weekly validation reports to organisations flagging data quality issues.
- Undertaking 6 monthly data quality/ cleaning exercises with organisations.
- Online validation visits every 12 – 18 months per participating organisation.

Plus the following are in place:

- Data quality checks prior to analysis to identify duplicate records and inconsistencies.
- Validation of addresses and postcodes.
- Annual review of low matches on patient ID assignment.
- NHS number validation using the Modulus 11 algorithm.

The NPCCA Statistical Analysis Plan for the State of the Nations Report is updated annually. PICANet SAP 2025 v1.0 is available here:

https://www.picanet.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2025/12/PICANet-Statistical-Analysis-Plan-2025_v1.0-Dec-2025.pdf

1.9a Link to the outlier policy*

The *PICANet Outlier Policy* is published on the PICANet

website: https://www.picanet.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2024/08/PICANet_Outlier_Policy_2024_v4.0_2024-08-06.pdf

1.9b Link to the cause for concern policy*

<https://www.picanet.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2025/01/RSPRT-Guide-for-units-v2.0-Jan-2025.pdf>

2.1 Outcome measures

The audit provides comparative performance data for Paediatric Intensive Care Units (PICUs) and Paediatric Critical Care Transport Services. Each hospital has its performance measured against: Other units / transports teams across the UK and Republic of Ireland, Paediatric Critical Care Standards and NHS England Specialised Services Quality Dashboard targets.

The current outcome metrics are:

- Risk adjusted in-PICU mortality

Evidence base: The risk adjustment model used to determine risk-adjusted mortality (Paediatric Index of Mortality version 3) has been externally validated (DOI: 10.1097/PCC.0b013e31829760cf).

Measures quality indicator PIC01 from the NHS England Level 3 - Paediatric Critical Care Specialised Services Quality Dashboard 2026/27.

- Unplanned readmissions within 48 hours

Evidence base: Clinical consensus within PICANet Clinical Advisory Group and Steering Group and designed to measure quality indicator PIC04 from the NHS England Level 3 - Paediatric Critical Care Specialised Services Quality Dashboard 2026/27.

2.2 Process measures

The current process metric is:

- Paediatric Critical Care Transport Services (PCCTS) non-elective mobilisation times

Evidence base: Clinical consensus within PICANet Clinical Advisory Group and Steering Group and designed to measure quality indicator PIC14i from the NHS England Level 3 - Paediatric Critical Care Specialised Services Quality Dashboard 2026/27 which recommends that, for emergency retrievals, the team departs the transport base within 30 minutes from the time the referral is accepted for retrieval.

- Unplanned extubations in PICU

Evidence base: Clinical consensus within PICANet Clinical Advisory Group and Steering Group and designed to measure quality indicator PIC08a from the NHS England Level 3 - Paediatric Critical Care Specialised Services Quality Dashboard 2026/27 which sets a target of fewer than five unplanned extubations per 1,000 ventilated days per PICU.

2.3 Organisational measures	Case ascertainment and timeliness of data completeness.
2.4 Patient reported outcome measures	Patient reported outcome measures are not included in the audit.
2.5 Patient reported experience measures	Patient reported experience measures are not included in the audit.
2.6a Do measures align with any of the following sources of evidence (select all that apply)	Professional society; Other (please describe in next question)
2.6b Evidence supplemental information	NHS England Specialised Services Quality Dashboards - Level 3 Paediatric Critical Care . There is no applicable NICE guidance for the National Paediatric Critical Care Audit (PICANet).
3.1 Results visualisation	Interactive online portal (run charts available); Annual report; Static data files
3.2a Levels of reporting*	National; Trust or health board; Hospital or specialist unit; Integrated care system (ICS); NHS region or other geographic area; Team/ ward
3.3 Timeliness of results feedback	Within 24 hours; Within 3 months; Within 1 month; Within 1 year
3.4 Link to dynamic reporting*	https://www.picanet.org.uk/data-collection/picanet-data-dashboard/
4.01 2023/24 Dataset covers the period FROM/TO (within financial year 01/04 to 31/03)*	01/04/2023 - 31/03/2024
4.02 2024/25 Dataset covers the period	01/04/2024 - 31/03/2025

**FROM/TO (within
financial year 01/04 to
31/03)***

4.03 2025/26 Dataset 01/04/2025 - 31/03/2026
covers the period
**FROM/TO (within
financial year 01/04 to
31/03)***

4.04 2026/27 Dataset 01/04/2026 - 31/03/2027
covers the period
**FROM/TO (within
financial year 01/04 to
31/03)***

4.10 Dataset #1 name PICU Admission dataset (inc. ECMO Admission expanded dataset)

4.11 Dataset #1 type Clinical audit

**4.12 Dataset #1
population coverage*** All eligible patients

**4.13 Dataset #1 items
collected (n)** 164

**4.14 Dataset #1 items
from existing national
datasets (n)** 46

**4.15 Dataset #1 use of
existing national
datasets** Paediatric critical care minimum dataset (PCCMDS)

**4.16 Dataset #1
specification** The PICU Admission Dataset Definitions Manual and the expanded
ECMO Dataset Definitions Manual (for PICUs with a designated ECMO centre)
are available on the PICANet website.

<https://www.picanet.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2025/01/PICANet-Web-Admission-Dataset-Manual-v6.0-January-2025.pdf>

<https://www.picanet.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2025/04/PICANet-ECMO-Dataset-Definitions-Manual-v2.2-January-2025.pdf>

4.20 Dataset #2 name PICU Referral dataset

4.21 Dataset #2 type Clinical audit

**4.22 Dataset #2
population coverage*** All eligible patients

**4.23 Dataset #2 items
collected (n)** 31

4.24 Dataset #2 items from existing national datasets (n)	0
4.25 Dataset #2 use of existing national datasets	N/A
4.26 Dataset #2 specification	The PICANet Referral & Transport Dataset Definitions Manual is available on the PICANet website: https://www.picanet.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2025/01/PICANet-Referral-Transport-Dataset-Definitions-Manual-v3.0-January-2025.pdf
4.30 Dataset #3 name	PICU Transport dataset
4.31 Dataset #3 type	Clinical audit
4.32 Dataset #3 population coverage*	All eligible patients
4.33 Dataset #3 items collected (n)	172
4.34 Dataset #3 items from existing national datasets (n)	0
4.35 Dataset #3 use of existing national datasets	N/A
4.36 Dataset #3 specification	The PICANet Referral & Transport Dataset Definitions Manual is available on the PICANet website: https://www.picanet.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2025/01/PICANet-Referral-Transport-Dataset-Definitions-Manual-v3.0-January-2025.pdf
4.40 Dataset #4 name	Customised data collections (multiple custom collections accounted for, some collected on an opt in basis)
4.41 Dataset #4 type	Clinical audit
4.42 Dataset #4 population coverage*	All eligible patients
4.43 Dataset #4 items collected (n)	0
4.44 Dataset #4 items from existing national datasets (n)	0

4.46 Dataset #4 specification

Customised data collections collect additional data beyond the PICANet core dataset for the purposes of audit. There are no current customised collections. As and when these are added they will be listed here on the PICANet website (<https://www.picanet.org.uk/customised-data-collection/>) with links to their data definitions manuals.

The COVID-19 customised data collection took place from April 2020 and ended on 04 June 2023: https://www.picanet.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2022/02/PICANet-COVID-19-II-Dataset-Definitions-Manual-v2.0_11Feb2022.pdf

The following custom audits were collected at a PICU level opt in basis for admissions up to 30 April 2022 :

- Renal Dataset: <https://www.picanet.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2018/05/PICANet-Renal-Dataset-Definitions-v2.0.pdf>
- Renal Daily Interventions: <https://www.picanet.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2018/06/PICANet-Renal-Daily-Data-Definitions-Manual-v2.0.pdf>

5.00 When was your healthcare quality improvement plan (referred to as a QI Plan) last reviewed? Please upload under 'Files' below using the HQIP naming convention (click on response to see pop-up help text).

30/05/2025

5.10 When were your clinical performance indicators (referred to as metrics) signed off by funders? Please upload under 'Files' below using the HQIP template and naming convention (click on response to see pop-up help text).

02/07/2026 08:00

5.11 Please add the hyperlink to where your clinical performance indicators (referred to as metrics) are published on your project website.*

<https://www.picanet.org.uk/data-collection/picanet-data-dashboard/>

5.20 National report publication date

State of the Nation Report 2023, describing paediatric critical care activity occurring within PICUs in the UK and ROI during 2020 – 2022, published 14 Dec

(within calendar year 01/01 - 31/12/2023)*	2023.
5.21 Published/planned national report publication date (within calendar year 01/01 - 31/12/2024)*	State of the Nation Report 2024, describing paediatric critical care activity occurring within PICUs in the UK and ROI during 2021 – 2023, published 12 Dec 2024.
5.22 Planned national report publication date (within calendar year 01/01 - 31/12/2025)*	State of the Nation Report 2025, describing paediatric critical care activity occurring within PICUs in the UK and ROI during 2022 – 2024, published 11 Dec 2025.
5.23 Planned national report publication date (within calendar year 01/01 - 31/12/2026)*	State of the Nation Report 2026, describing paediatric critical care activity occurring within PICUs in the UK and ROI during 2023 – 2025, planned publication date 10 Dec 2026.
5.24 Planned national report publication date (within calendar year 01/01 - 31/12/2027)*	State of the Nation Report 2027, describing paediatric critical care activity occurring within PICUs in the UK and ROI during 2024 – 2026, planned publication date Dec 2027.
6.0 If you selected 'Wales' for geographical coverage (1.1a & 1.1b above), do you make any information available in Welsh? This may include reports, guidance, policies, dashboards, webpages or patient resources etc.	Yes
6.1a If yes, please list the materials you translate into Welsh and include hyperlinks where available.	Posters and leaflets: https://www.picanet.org.uk/patients-and-families-information/ Patient Privacy Notice and Fair Processing Statement: https://www.picanet.org.uk/about/policies/
7.0 Please add the most recent date that you have reviewed and updated an online version of UPCARE Workstream section(s) on your project's website (click into the response to see pop- up guidance).	19/08/2026

**7.1 Please add a
hyperlink to UPCARE
Workstream section(s)
on your website (click
into the response to
see pop-up guidance).***

<https://www.picanet.org.uk/>

