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If you would like to know more about
PICANet you can talk to the doctors and
nurses caring for your child and visit our
website

www.picanet.org.uk



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Paediatric Intensive Care Audit Network



Information Leaflet for families and carers
of children admitted to paediatric critical
care

What does PICANet do?

PICANet is a project helping to continually improve how we treat and care for very sick children in paediatric critical care (PCC).

PCC units collect information during your child's admission. We use this information for clinical audit and research purposes to find out the best treatment and care for children. Clinical audit enables organisations and the public to see if the care provided is in line with standards. This allows for the continuation of high quality services for the future.

PICANet are also in a unique position to enable and support approved research projects into paediatric critical care by providing data. Before any information is shared, requests undergo a very thorough review process. This ensures that only the essential data is provided, whether this is summary level or more detailed information.

How is PICANet funded?

Funding is provided by the National Clinical Audit & Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP) administered by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP), NHS Lothian and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee, the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, National Office of Clinical Audit Ireland (NOCA), and HCA International Limited.

How is information collected?

A member of staff records information about your child's condition or illness from their medical notes which is then sent to the PICANet database.

What information is collected?

Personal details, like name and date of birth, help us to follow your child's critical care journey and treatment, including admission to other PCC units.

We can use your postcode to help plan future PCC services in a geographical area.

Will the information be safe?

We send and receive all information in a very safe way and the University of Leeds store this confidential information in a secure electronic environment. No-one can see the information, unless it is their job to do so. For further information, please see the PICANet Privacy and Fair Processing Statement on the PICANet website.

What are the benefits of collecting data?

PICANet's international data collection ensures a UK and Ireland-wide overview of paediatric critical care as well as national and local views, including critical care referral and transport services. During the past few years, we have shown that over 19,000 children are admitted to PICUs in the UK and Ireland each year and there are over 5,000 transports to PICU annually.

As well as writing reports and informing planning of children's critical care for the future, PICANet supports quality improvement at national levels by providing data and specialist input into reports and reviews. For example, PICANet monitored the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic nationally and were able to report on child characteristics, treatment, and outcomes of confirmed COVID-19 cases.

On a local level, each PCCU can review their own data collected within PICANet. Regular reporting by PICANet allows identification of potential risk factors. This allows each unit to minimise complications and drive improvements in clinical practice to reduce mortality and physiological impact.

You can find out more information about the research supported on our website.

Does my child have to be included in the clinical audit database?

Yes. You don't need to do anything for your child to be included. It is important for PICANet to receive information about your child's admission, referral or transport to paediatric critical care for clinical audit purposes. This is because the absence of even one child's data can lead to inaccurate conclusions.

Can I opt out of my child's personally identifiable information being included in PICANet?

Yes. If you do not want information included which identifies your child, please tell the nurse or doctor caring for your child or contact PICANet (details provided overleaf). Your child's anonymised information will remain in the PICANet database for audit (non-research) and approved research purposes.

Does my child have to be included in the research database?

No. If you decide that you do not want any of the data about your child to be used for approved research purposes, you can speak to the nurse or doctor caring for your child or contact PICANet. The process of opting out of the research database is included in the PICANet clinical audit and research database opt out policy on our website.

You are free to withdraw your child's personal identifiers or all data from the research database at any time. Any decision will not alter the care your child receives in this or any other hospital.

