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Our privacy notice is
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Improving critical care

LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE FOR
THE BENEFIT OF FUTURE PATIENTS

Ensuring high quality critical care

Delivering the best possible care is at the heart of any intensive care unit and patient information, when analysed across all units, provides an invaluable resource for improving patient outcomes. Information (data) on every patient in the unit is collected by unit staff. The data is then sent to an independent charity called ICNARC (Intensive Care National Audit & Research Centre). ICNARC analyse the data and send the results back to the unit. The health care team in this unit can use these results to improve the care they give their patients. This process is called an audit.

This audit is called the Case Mix Programme (CMP). The Government recommends that all intensive care units take part in the CMP audit. It is important for units to have independent feedback so they can improve patient care.

What information is collected?

- Patient details – NHS Number, date of birth, sex, ethnicity, postcode
- When the patient was admitted to the unit and where from (e.g. emergency department)
- Why the patient needed intensive care
- What treatment was given and the results of the treatment
- When the patient left the unit and where they went next (e.g. ward)

No names or addresses are collected

These data are collected with special approval under Section 251 of the NHS Act 2006 which allows collection of patient identifiable data without consent. Approval is granted by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (ref: 24/CAG/0121) for audit and the Health Research Authority for research (ref: 24/CAG/0120) following advice from the Confidentiality Advisory Group (CAG).

Who collects this information?

A trained member of staff from this unit collects the information about each patient and enters it onto a computer.

How is this information used?

The information (data) collected in each intensive care unit is sent to ICNARC. ICNARC bring together and analyse data from units across the UK. They then send out a confidential report to each unit. This report shows how each unit compares with similar units in the UK in terms of the care it provides and the results of this care. This helps ensure all hospitals consistently maintain the best possible patient outcomes. See www.icnarc.org for other ways in which ICNARC use information to improve patient care.

Personal information about each patient (NHS number, date of birth, sex, postcode) are shared between ICNARC and NHS national databases (held by NHS England and Digital Health and Care Wales) so that the well-being of patients can be monitored as part of the audit. NHS England and Digital Health and Care Wales will use the information provided by ICNARC to 'link' data from the CMP to their national datasets and will send back to ICNARC information about 'linked' patients, including survival and hospital admissions, which will then be included in the audit database.

How secure is this information?

ICNARC have a very secure computer system and strict information security policies that are reviewed annually.

For information on how we use your data and how it is kept secure please visit our website: www.icnarc.org

Does my information need to be included?

If you don't want your data to be used, you do have the right to opt-out, irrespective of the national data opt-out exemption. You can do so by discussing this with a member of the healthcare team on this unit or contacting ICNARC directly (cmp@icnarc.org). This will not affect the care and treatment provided.

Will my data be used for research?

Data collected for the CMP are used to support critical care research, including clinical trials, to inform patient care. The CMP has also received approval as a Research Database (ethics committee reference: 24/NI/0116) which allows research to be conducted using CMP data by researchers at ICNARC and other approved researchers/organisations.

If you do not want your data included in the Research Database please speak to a member of the healthcare team on this unit or email cmp@icnarc.org.