

QUALITY ASSURANCE – PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKING AND SCORING SYSTEMS PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

The Intensive Care Unit has an ongoing system of scoring the severity of illness of all admissions and recording outcome in terms of both mortality and morbidity.

Aims:

1. Allows continuous assessment of performance
 - internal comparisons of time periods can be made to ensure consistency of performance
 - external - scoring systems used are internationally recognized and this allows performance comparison with units regionally and internationally
2. Improves clinical ability to predict outcome
3. Outcome data is a powerful way to influence change in an intensive care unit
4. Allows the impact of policy changes to be measured
5. Data collected can also be used for research and audit purposes

Reporting system

1. ANZICS Adult Patient Database
2. Clinical indicators - need for ventilation, length of stay, readmission rates, nosocomial infections etc.

ANZICS Adult Patient Database

This is managed by the Australian & New Zealand Intensive Care Society and membership to this society is required to be a contributor and to receive regular risk-adjusted outcome reports. Data from ICU patients are collected for SAPS II, APACHE II & III and submitted quarterly to ANZICS by electronic means. This database uses the AORTIC software (Australasian Outcomes Research Tool for Intensive Care) and contributors receive regular software upgrades. Some important information we get from this database include our unit's SMR (standardized mortality ratio) for SAPS II, APACHE II and III compared to other hospitals in Australasia that contribute to this database. In order to maintain consistency in data collection, we have a dedicated data collection team which consists of a registered ICU nurse who does most of the data collection and he/she is assisted by a ward clerk. An ICU specialist is the Quality Assurance Coordinator is in charge of this team. The ICU Director and all the ICU specialists in this unit will be informed the outcome reports.

Clinical Indicators

Regular audits are conducted