

UK PICU Staffing Study

*The impact of changing workforce patterns in UK paediatric intensive care services
on staff practice and patient outcomes*

NEWSLETTER 4 (September 2006)

Ethical approval received Phase 2 site visits to begin

As you may recall from earlier newsletters, this study aims to test the impact of changing workforce patterns (or *who* cares for patients) on staff and patients in UK Paediatric Intensive Care Units (PICUs). It will take place in 12 PICUs, comparing outcomes between 6 units with to 6 units without extended nursing roles (i.e., nurses undertaking clinical tasks normally outwith normal nursing practice).

COREC approval was received for the study in August (Ref: 06/MRE04/50).

We are now approaching the randomly selected units, inviting each to participate in the prospective parts of the study. As units agree to participate we are completing the local NHS R&D application forms (on behalf of each local lead clinician). Once permissions are in place, the project can go ahead in participating units and our researchers will be in touch with you to set up site visits.

Thank you to all the units who have agreed to participate in the prospective study. Recruitment and R&D submissions for the 12 units is nearly complete. For the one or two remaining units yet to formally reply to our letter of invitation, *if you have any remaining queries, please contact Dawn Coleby* on 0116 252 5451 Email: dc55@le.ac.uk, who will be happy to help.



Dawn Coleby

What's happening next ? In Participating Units.....Phase 2 - Site Visits

Our researcher, Namita Srivastava, will visit the 12 participating units for information to build a unit profile, workforce description and interview key staff.

At selected units, Namita will ask to shadow some nurses working on typical shifts, and invite unit staff to complete a short activity summary at the end of shift. The aim here is to estimate staff groups' time in direct patient care.



Namita Srivastava

In Participating UnitsPhase 3 - planned for 2007

During the final 12-month phase, we will be collecting a simple, twice daily staff/patient log - alongside PICA-net patient data as usual. In each participating unit, we will train and support a link research nurse to collect further data on probable ventilator associated pneumonia. There will also be an anonymous postal survey of PICU staff views and well-being. And finally, Namita will conduct interviews with parents or parent/child pairs, to explore user views and satisfaction.

Thank you for all your interest and enquiries about this exciting study, and we're really looking forward to meeting and working with some of you on the units. We'll continue to keep you informed.

For more information about the project please see under "research projects" on PICA-net website at <http://www.picanet.org.uk/>

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