

Patient Information Leaflet

**Scottish Intensive Care
Society Audit Group**

This leaflet explains what you need to know about the Scottish Intensive Care Society Audit Group (SICSAG) and why it is important for the future care of critical care patients.

What is SICSAG?

The SICSAG audit is one of the national clinical audits run by Public Health Scotland (PHS). Each hospital in Scotland with an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) or High Dependency Unit (HDU) collect information about the care of patients who are admitted to critical care and compare it with nationally agreed standards of care or quality indicators.

PHS is a national special health board of NHS Scotland, jointly sponsored by the Scottish Government and COSLA, which launched on 1 April 2020.

More information about PHS is available at:

<https://www.publichealthscotland.scot/our-areas-of-work/sharing-our-data-and-intelligence/>

What is the aim of the audit?

To record details about your admission to critical care and the level of care received and to use this information to change clinical practice to improve the care these patients receive.

What are the benefits?

The SICSAG audit uses this information to learn more about your critical care stay.

Including your information in this national audit helps us to plan future care and improve health and care services that will support patients who are admitted to critical care in the future by learning about:

- How many people are admitted each year;
- What type of illness results in critical care admission;
- How long you stay in critical care;
- How many people survive critical care admission.

How are the data collected?

The data are collected from your hospital and added to an electronic database called ward watcher which is used to gather all of the information about you and your care given on a daily basis from admission until discharge.

What personal information will the audit hold about you?

Only relevant information about you or your child's treatment and care is collected. We do collect the following personal information about you:

- Name
- Postcode
- Date of Birth
- Sex
- Community Health Index (CHI) Number
- Your NHS Board

as well as the information about your care.

How do we use your data?

The data we collect in the ward watcher database is held electronically and securely within PHS.

The SICSAG team managing the audit collate and check the information. Personal information is shared with clinical teams and hospital management who are directly involved in your care. Other non-identifiable information is shared with the SICSAG Network, Scottish Government and researchers.

This information may be used for local or national projects and as part of research, but individual personal information will never be published. The Audit Steering Group controls who has access to the data. Sharing of the data is done only when appropriate, under secure conditions and with details that could identify you removed as far as is possible.

Will anyone contact me from the audit?

If your hospital has a follow up clinic, you may be invited to take part in follow up after discharge from the ICU unit but you will be informed of this before discharge from the unit and be able to decide whether you want to participate or not. If you decide not to take part this will not affect the standard of care you receive.

As the SICSAG audit aims to assist clinical teams with improvements for all patients it is sometimes necessary to contact patients or parents when they are at home to arrange follow up.

If there is a need to contact you, it would be by telephone or post and permission to contact you will be sought before you leave hospital.

There may be occasions when researchers need to access information about individual patients. There are strict processes they have to go through to do this and they cannot contact you without the approval of your doctor.

Do I need to do anything?

You do not need to do anything – there are no forms to fill in and nothing to sign. Your hospital will record all of the information relevant to your care on their information systems/ records. Relevant information will be manually entered to SICSAG database by appropriately trained staff. Secure processes will then transfer only the parts of these data that are relevant to the SICSAG database. If you do not want your data used for research purposes, you can inform the unit staff who will complete the opt out section on ward watcher.

Is information about me safe?

Yes. We have to comply with the law to use your personal information.

The reports that the audit publish do not identify any individuals. PHS staff are bound by data protection legislation and confidentiality rules. All information is stored in ways that comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 on computers that can only be accessed with secure passwords.

Only NHS staff with specific security access can see any personal details.

Your rights

Data Protection law gives you rights over how we use your personal details. These and other more detailed information can be found on the PHS website.

<https://www.publichealthscotland.scot/our-privacy-notice/organisational-background/>

Where can I get more information?

You can ask your doctor or nurse, another member of your healthcare team, or your hospital's data protection officers.

Or write to:

Scottish Intensive Care Audit Group

1 South Gyle Crescent

Edinburgh

EH12 9EB

Email: PHS.sicsag@phs.scot

Website: www.sicsag.scot.nhs.uk

Useful links to other organisations

Public Health Scotland

www.publichealthscotland.scot

Scottish Intensive Care Society

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

NHS Research Scotland Critical Care Specialty Group

<https://www.nhsresearchscotland.org.uk/research-areas/critical-care>

Scottish Patient Safety Alliance

<http://www.scottishpatientsafetyprogramme.scot.nhs.uk/>

Accessibility and translations

If you need this information in another format or a community language please contact:

Email: phs.otherformats@phs.scot

Tel: 0131 275 7457

Text relay: 01800 275 7457

Website: <http://contactscotland-bsl.org/reg/>