
TITLE : INTENSIVE CARE UNIT REPORTING**DISTRIBUTION:** ALL PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

1. Purpose

The purpose of this bulletin is to describe the reporting mechanism for patients treated in intensive care units.

2. Background

An Intensive Care Unit (ICU) is a designated ward of the hospital which is specially staffed and equipped to provide observation, care and treatment to patients with actual or potential life-threatening illnesses, injuries or complications from which recovery is possible. The ICU provides special expertise and facilities for the support of vital functions and utilises the skills of medical, nursing and other staff trained/experienced in the management of these problems.

There are different types and levels of ICU, which must substantially conform to the appropriate guidelines of the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards.

The different types of intensive care units are defined according to three main criteria as follows:

- The nature of the facility
- The care process
- The clinical standards and staffing requirements.

The different types and levels of ICU are :

- Adults intensive care - level 3, level 2 and level 1
- Paediatric intensive care
- Neonatal intensive care, level 3.

ADULT INTENSIVE CARE UNIT , LEVEL 3**Nature of facility**

A level 3 intensive care unit must be a separate and self contained facility in the hospital capable of providing complex, multisystem life support for an indefinite period. It must be a tertiary centre for patients in need of intensive care services and have extensive back up laboratory and clinical service facilities to support this tertiary referral role.

Care process

A level 3 intensive care unit must be capable of providing mechanical ventilation, extracorporeal renal support services and invasive cardiovascular monitoring for an indefinite period. These types of service are illustrative of the nature of the care provided in a level 3 adult intensive care unit but are not exhaustive of the possibilities.

Clinical standards and staffing requirements

A level 3 adult intensive care unit must conform substantially to the appropriate guidelines of the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards.

ADULT INTENSIVE CARE UNIT, LEVEL 2

Nature of the facility

A level 2 adult intensive care unit must be a separate and self contained facility in the hospital capable of providing complex, multisystem life support.

Care process

A level 2 adult intensive care unit must be capable of providing mechanical ventilation, extracorporeal renal support services and invasive cardiovascular monitoring for a period of at least several days, or for longer periods in remote areas. These types of services are illustrative of the nature of the care provided in a level 2 adult intensive care unit but are not exhaustive of the possibilities.

Clinical standards and staffing requirements

A level 2 adult intensive care unit must conform substantially to the appropriate guidelines of the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards.

ADULT INTENSIVE CARE UNIT, LEVEL 1

Nature of the facility

A level 1 adult intensive care unit must be a separate and self contained facility in the hospital capable of providing basic, multisystem support usually for less than a 24 hour period.

Care process

A level 1 adult intensive care unit must be capable of providing mechanical ventilation and simple, invasive cardiovascular monitoring for a period of at least several hours. These types of services are illustrative of the nature of the care provided in a level 1 adult intensive care unit but are not exhaustive of the possibilities.

Clinical standards and staffing requirements

A level 1 adult intensive care unit must conform substantially to the appropriate guidelines of the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards.

PAEDIATRIC INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

Nature of the facility

A paediatric intensive care unit must be a separate and self contained facility in the hospital capable of providing complex, multisystem support for an indefinite period. It must be a tertiary referral centre for children needing intensive care services and have extensive back up laboratory and clinical service facilities to support this tertiary role.

Care process

A paediatric intensive care unit must be capable of providing mechanical ventilation, extracorporeal renal support services and invasive cardiovascular monitoring for an indefinite periods to infants and children less than 16 years of age. These types of services are illustrative of the nature of the care provided in a paediatric intensive care unit but are not exhaustive of the possibilities.

Clinical standards and staffing requirements

A paediatric intensive care unit must conform substantially to the appropriate guidelines of the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards.

NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT, LEVEL 3

Nature of the facility

A level 3 neonatal intensive care unit must be a separate and self contained facility in the hospital capable of providing complex, multisystem life support for an indefinite period.

Care process

A level 3 neonatal intensive care unit must be capable of providing mechanical ventilation and invasive cardiovascular monitoring. These types of service are illustrative of the nature of the care provided in a level 3 neonatal intensive care unit and are not exhaustive of the possibilities.

Clinical standards and staffing requirements

A level 3 neonatal intensive care unit must conform substantially to the appropriate guidelines of the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards.

3. Reporting Days in ICU

The number of days spent in a designated intensive care bed in any of the five types of intensive care units described above are to be reported to the Health Information Centre via the TOPAS or HCARE system. Days or part thereof, should be rounded off to the nearest day.

Days are to be accumulated for each separate stay in an ICU bed during an acute episode of care.

3.1 Reporting requirements for hospitals using the TOPAS computer system.

The variable *Day in ICU* in the TOPAS computer system is used to report this information.

NOTE :

- **THIS REPORTED DATA WILL BE USED TO INFORM THE FUNDING FOR DAYS IN ICU**
- **THE DAYS AN INFANT SPENDS IN A SPECIAL CARE NURSERY LEVEL 2 ARE NOT TO BE REPORTED AS DAYS IN ICU**