Intensive care unit

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Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHDD

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Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT CONCEPT

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Definition: An intensive care unit (ICU) is a designated ward of a hospital

which is specially staffed and equipped to provide observation,

care and treatment to patients with actual or potential lifethreatening 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 and experienced in the

management of these problems.

Context: Admitted patient care.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype:

Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation: National Intensive Care Working Group

Comments: There are five different types and levels of ICU defined according

to three main criteria: the nature of the facility, the care process and the clinical standards and staffing requirements. All levels and types of ICU must be separate and self-contained facilities in hospitals and, for clinical standards and staffing requirements, substantially conform to relevant guidelines of the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards. The five types of ICU are briefly

described below:

Adult intensive care unit .level 3: must be capable of providing complex, multisystem life support for an indefinite period; be a tertiary referral centre for patients in need of intensive care services and have extensive backup laboratory and clinical service facilities to support the tertiary referral role. It must be capable of providing

mechanical ventilation, extracorporeal renal support services and invasive cardiovascular monitoring for an indefinite period; or care of a similar nature.

Adult intensive care unit, level 2: must be capable of providing complex, multisystem life support and 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 or care of a similar nature (see ACHS guidelines).

Adult intensive care unit, level 1: must be capable of providing basic multisystem life support usually for less than a 24-hour period. It must be capable of providing mechanical ventilation and simple invasive cardiovascular monitoring for a period of at least several hours; or care of a similar nature.

Paediatric intensive care unit: must be capable of providing complex, multisystem life support for an indefinite period; be a tertiary referral centre for children needing intensive care; and have extensive backup laboratory and clinical service facilities to support this tertiary role. It must be capable of providing mechanical ventilation, extracorporeal renal support services and invasive cardiovascular monitoring for an indefinite period to infants and children less than 16 years of age; or care of a similar nature.

Neonatal intensive care unit, level 3: must be capable of providing complex, multisystem life support for an indefinite period. It must be capable of providing mechanical ventilation and invasive cardiovascular monitoring; or care of a similar nature.

Definitions for high-dependency unit and coronary care unit are under development.

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element
NHIM Service delivery setting

Data Agreements which include this Data Element