
Intensive care unit

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Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHDD
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Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT CONCEPT
Admin status: SUPERSEDED Effective date: 01-MAR-05
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 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 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

