

ICCMU in 2006

Research:

Following on from the pilot project on the implementation of a process-of-care checklist in a tertiary ICU, the planning phase for the next step in this research area is currently underway.

A database of ICU indicators has been developed and the ICCMU Quality Group, this year, will work towards recommending a "core set" of indicators to the ANZICS Safety & Quality Committee.

Discussions and plans are underway in conjunction with ANZICS Adult Patient Database on the possibility of collecting data relating to 'exit block' centrally. This would allow quantification of the prevalence of exit block statewide and may be useful for setting benchmarks and evaluating performance.

Research into identifying patterns and trends in interhospital transfers will continue to be progressed throughout 2006.

Alongside the Intensive Care Collaborative (ICC) project is the 'Fasthug'¹ survey.

- F: Feeding
- A: Analgesia
- S: Sedation
- T: Thromboembolic prevention
- H: Head of bed elevation
- U: Ulcer prophylaxis
- G: Glucose control

The 'fasthug' survey is aimed at identifying the uptake of the evidence related to a range of intensive care clinical practices. This survey is partnership between ICCMU, the Australian Catholic University and Serena Knowles (doctoral student). In the past week we have begun to contact nursing staff identified as being responsible for practice development within individual units.

In March, ICCMU will conduct its annual ICU Resource Survey (collating data on individual unit's: contact details, nursing & medical workforce, IT, quality issues, research activities), in order to maintain a statewide "picture" of ICU resources in NSW. During the next 6 months, ICCMU will develop a web-based format of the ICU Resource Survey for use in 2007.

The annual ICUConnect User Survey is scheduled for May/June 2006.

¹ Vincent J.-L. 2005. Give your patient a fast hug (at least) once a day, *Critical Care Medicine* 33: 1225-1229

Nursing Workforce:

ICCMU conducted an ICU Resource survey in December 2004 / January 2005 for all 43 ICUs in NSW. This survey highlighted:

1. Limited educational support for many units (including no educational support for a number of these units), particularly in rural areas.
2. Chronic FTE vacancies in some units.
3. A need for increased non-clinical support services, especially after-hours.

ICUConnect communications over the last 12 months have covered workforce issues such as:

1. Staff deployment
2. Nurse/Patient ratios
3. ENs in ICU
4. Extended roles - nurse liaison, research/ data nurses & equipment officers.

The Resource Survey and ICUConnect activity have provided the impetus for ICCMU, during 2006, to become involved in researching nursing workforce issues and models of care at both national and international levels. An initial step in this process will be a repeat of the ICU Resource Survey, planned for March 2006.

Information Management:

Development will begin this year on modifying the ICU Resource Survey into database format that will permit the survey to be conducted electronically.

Developing and implementing a database to automatically process Medical Retrieval Unit 'retrieval data', will speed up and improve the accuracy of data analysis of interhospital transfers for monthly reporting to the NSW Intensive Care Taskforce (ICT).

During 2006, ICCMU will re-catalogue its Endnote library to allow referencing under "topic". ICCMU will later add these reference lists to the website as a resource for ICCMU stakeholders.

ICCMU "Out and About":

During 2006, ICCMU staff will continue to visit units.

In December 2005, Kaye visited Lismore, Tweed and Grafton units and Diane visited Canberra and Goulburn units.

This month, the Webpage team (Tom and Kaye) travelled the mid north coast area and visited Coffs Harbour, Kempsey, Port Macquarie, Manning

Base in Taree, the Mater and John Hunter Hospitals in Newcastle, and Gosford units.

Along for the ride were Joseph Meloche and Helen Hasan, academics from University of Wollongong, who demonstrated "Zing", a new technology for facilitating and recording discussions within a focus group. This technology was received with enthusiasm by nursing staff and will be used as a research tool to assist in the future development of the Website.

To date, ICCMU inservices have been held at the following hospitals. If your hospital **IS NOT** on the list, and you would like an inservice, please contact us to organise a visit.

Mona Vale	Manly
Royal Prince Alfred	St George
Prince of Wales	Prince of Wales Private
Royal North Shore	Tweed
Lismore	Grafton
Coffs Harbour	Kempsey
Port Macquarie	Manning
Mater	John Hunter
Gosford	

Upcoming inservice (March 20): Fairfield

Committees:

During 2006, members of ICCMU staff will continue to maintain a presence on various committees. These include:

- NSW Critical Care Health Priority Taskforce
- NSW Intensive Care Taskforce
- ANZICS Safety & Quality Committee
- ANZICS APD Committee
- NSW Health Disaster Clinical Advisory Group
- Surgical Services Taskforce
- ACT Critical Care Taskforce
- NSW Pre Hospital Trauma Committee
- Medical Retrieval Committee

The Website:

For those who have come in late, the ICCMU website migrated to HSNet on December 24 2005.

<http://intensivecare.hsnet.nsw.gov.au>

Access should now be equal across all sites. We are aware that there are several hospitals without intranet access and we have actioned this. If you find you are unable to access the site via the intranet please let us know.

What's new at the site?

There are several pages, for the community section of the website, in the final editing stages. These include:

- Oesophageal Varices
- Liver Failure
- Seizures
- EEG
- Head Injury
- Pressure Area Care
- Suctioning a tracheal tube
- Admission procedures

Future developments:

1. Technical...

Enhanced website features such as:

- Web page commenting.
- Boolean search engine (a search function allowing the use of multiple words or phrases).
- Online Surveys and Polling.
- Blogging (similar to online diary).
- Direct access to ICUConnect.
- User accessible web page statistics.

2. Community...

- Completing "Conditions" section
- Completing "Procedures" section
- Updating hospital/unit information
- Development of promotional materials for waiting rooms

3. Clinician...

- Investigating methods and tools to evolve ICUConnect
- Bibliographic listings on relevant critical care subjects

4. Guidelines...

- Adding P&P's contributed by St. George ICU
- Begin discussions with Level 5 units re contributing their P&P's

The Intensive Care Collaborative:

This project (development of six statewide IC guidelines) is well and truly underway. The guidelines being developed include:

1. Eye care
2. Oral Care
3. ETT Securing
4. Suctioning
5. Arterial Lines
6. Central Lines

At this time the networks are engaging in the systematic review process with all Guideline Development Networks (GDN) members critiquing the available literature for their respective guidelines.

In addition, the ETT stabilisation network will conduct a clinical audit to gather local information on the procedure and on adverse outcomes related to various methods of stabilisation.

The literature load is quite large, however, if members are able to spend 1-2 hours per week, during working hours, the workload can be managed. All members of the networks have busy roles, either as CNC, educator, NUM or in direct clinical care, therefore time must be found in these busy schedules to do this work.

ICCMU appreciates the efforts of all network members and hopes that these members are receiving the necessary support to enable them to participate. The date for delivery of the guidelines is still 2006

Education / Conferences:

This year, ICCMU anticipates being a presence at several local and national conferences.

ICCMU is conducting a Critical Care Seminar at Dubbo in March.

Karena (Research Officer) will be presenting at the Critical Care Conference in the Vineyards in the Hunter Valley in April.

Tom and Kaye will be at the Rural Critical Care Conference in Broken Hill in August - ICCMU will have a booth there and Kaye will also be assisting in the Skills Stations.

Karena has submitted an abstract to the 4th Australasian Conference on Safety and Quality in Health Care in Melbourne in August.

Kaye plans to present preliminary findings from the "Fasthug" survey at the ANZICS & ACCCN ASM in Hobart in October.

Kaye plans to attend (and possibly present, re: The IC Collaborative) at the National Institute of Clinical Studies: Using evidence, using guidelines Symposium in Melbourne in October.

Publications:

ICCMU will continue bimonthly newsletters during 2006. Newsletters will be issued:

- February 2006
- April 2006
- June 2006
- August 2006
- October 2006
- December 2006

Previous issues can be found at:

<http://intensivecare.hsnet.nsw.gov.au/htm/newsletter.php>

Upon completion of a pilot project on the implementation of a process-of-care checklist in a tertiary ICU, Tony and Karena have submitted a paper for publication to Anaesthesia and Intensive Care.

Tony, Doug (Elliott), Kaye and Diane are currently developing a manuscript on Knowledge Management and ICUConnect for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

Kaye and Diane will soon commence work on an article to be published later in the year for Critical Times.

The team of ICCMU will also publish the inaugural ICCMU Report later this year.


For Your Diary:

- **3rd Congress WFCCN & International Meeting of the Asia Pacific of Critical Care Nurses**
26th - 28th February, 2006
Manila, Philippines
Website:
<http://www.ccnapi.org/3rdCongress/>
- **Decisions at the End of Life: Rural Seminar**
3rd March, 2006
Charles Sturt University, Bathurst
Contact: NSWHealth Research & Ethics
Branch
02 9391 9427
- **Austrauma 2006: Close Encounters of the Third Kind**
3rd - 4th March, 2006
Crowne Plaza, Parramatta
Website:
http://www.westmeadtrauma.org/program.php?program_id=1&idd=1
- **26th International Symposium on Intensive Care & Emergency Medicine**
21st - 24th March, 2006
Brussels, Belgium
Website:
<http://www.intensive.org/index.cfm>

In-services:

ICCMU is now in a position to promote the advantages to staff (and ICU visitors) of using the ICCMU website.

If you would like an in-service about the website OR ICUConnect organised for your unit, please contact **Kaye Rolls** on the following numbers:

 02 4734 1489 / 4734 1585

@ Rollsk@wahs.nsw.gov.au

Sorry for NSW members only

- **National Heart Foundation Conference:**
Cardiovascular Disease in the 21st Century
23rd - 24th March, 2006
Sydney, NSW
Email: Conference@heartfoundation.com.au
- **Critical Care Seminar**
30th March, 2006
Dubbo, NSW
Contact: Kaye Rolls (ICCMU)
02 4734 1489
Email: rollsk@wahs.nsw.gov.au
- **Critical Care Conference in the Vineyards**
6th April, 2006
Hunter Valley, Newcastle
Contact: Jane O'Brien
0438 476 907
- **Organ & Tissue Donation Seminar**
7th April, 2006
Hunter Valley, Newcastle
Contact: Nicole Coleman
0408 274 313
- **26th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian Pain Society: Pain Across the Lifespan**
9th - 12th April, 2006
Melbourne, Victoria
Website:
<http://dcconferences.com.au/aps2006/>
- **2006 ANZCA ASM: All in a day's work**
13th - 17th May, 2006
Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide
Website:
<http://www.sapmea.asn.au/conventions/anzca/index.html>
- **ACCCN (NSW) Seminar 2006: Vital Signs amongst the Vines**
19th May, 2006
Coolangatta Wine Estate
Shoalhaven South, NSW
Website:
<http://www.acccn.com.au/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=267&Itemid=65&blog=y&catid=8>
- **ANZICS (NSW) & ACCCN (NSW) Regional Meeting 2006**
20th - 21st May, 2006
Coolangatta Wine Estate
Shoalhaven South, NSW
Website: <http://www.acccn.com.au/>
Email: juster@iahs.nsw.gov.au
- **ACCCN: 7th Annual ICE Conference**
26th - 27th May, 2006
Carlton Crest, Melbourne
Website:
<http://www.acccn.com.au/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=279&Itemid=64&blog=y&catid=7>

- **JFICM ASM 2006**

11th - 14th June, 2006

Melbourne, Victoria

Email: jficm@anzca.edu.au

Venue: TBA, Sydney

Contact: Angela Berry

Angela.Berry@wsahs.nsw.gov.au

Kathy Rafter

Kathy.Rafter@wsahs.nsw.gov.au

- **Australian Nursing & Allied Health Stroke Conference**

6th - 7th July, 2006

Sydney, NSW

Contact: Louise Pitney

02 9437 9333 (Tel)

02 9901 4586 (FAX)

- **ANZICS - ACCCN ASM 2006**

12th - 15th October, 2006

Hobart, Tasmania

Website:

<http://www.anzics.com.au/asm/welcome.htm>

- **Rural Critical Care Conference**

25th - 26th August, 2006

Broken Hill, NSW

Contact: Richard Walker

rwalker@gwahs.health.nsw.gov.au

For a more complete listing of conferences (local, national and international) visit our website at:

<http://intensivecare.hsnet.nsw.gov.au/html/conferences.php>

- **Nurse Teachers Association: Capital Issues in Education, Excellence Innovation, Research**

13th - 16th September, 2006

Australian National University

Canberra, ACT

Contact: Liz McNally

Liz.McNally@act.gov.au

All web and email addresses were correct at time of publication.

Edited by Di Kowal & Kaye Rolls

Intensive Care Coordination & Monitoring Unit (ICCMU)

PO Box 63

Penrith NSW 2751

Tel: (02) 4734 1585

Fax: (02) 4734 1586

Email: iccmu@wahs.nsw.gov.au

- **Westmead Critical Care Evening Seminar**

22nd September 2006

All contributions / suggestions greatly appreciated.

This newsletter may be freely distributed.