

Dear colleague

The intensive care society has been interested in patient safety incidents (incidents) for many years and has published guidance on the reporting of these incidents, which is available on the website.

The department of health has also required hospital trusts in England and Wales to report incidents to the National reporting and learning service, previously run by the NPSA. This means that every hospital in England and Wales will collect incidents from their critical care units to submit them to the NPSA and hold this information in easily accessible electronic format. These records for each hospital should then be available to all clinical directors and clinical leads working in those hospitals. We have previously used these incident reports to study aspects of patient safety in critical care

More recently we have started to classify incidents submitted from different Trusts and link these to the clinical activity of these units. This has allowed these units to receive a report setting out their profile of patient safety incidents in comparison with incidents submitted from other trusts.

The incidents, held on behalf of the society, also give the ICS a picture of the pattern of incidents reported across the UK that should allow it to offer guidance on how serious patient safety incidents could be avoided.

We would like to invite critical care units to submit patient safety incidents reported from their units to this database together with basic information about clinical activity and ways of working.

In return units would receive a detailed report of their incident profile compared to other units submitting data and would also contribute to a general better understanding of these incidents that should in turn result in guidance to improve patient safety .

We hope that your unit will join us in this process, the rest of the web site contains a lot of detail about the reporting system and we would be happy to answer any questions you may have about the system.

With best wishes

Tony.thomas@srft.nhs .uk