

Request title: Patient transfers from Resuscitation to Intensive Therapy Unit

Date of Response: 14th October 2015

Further to your Freedom of Information request, the Trust has answered your questions in the order they appear in your request.

Request and reply

1. When a patient is admitted into resus / a&e department in your hospital what is the criteria for the patient to be transferred to ITU?

All patients are individually assessed by as senior Emergency Department doctor who makes a clinical decision about referral for on-going care. If they decide that care on ITU may be appropriate then the patient is seen by the ITU team and a decision made about admission. Patients are admitted when they have potentially reversible organ failure or incipient organ failure.

2.(a) is the resus / a&e department having discretionary and mandatory right to transfer patient to ITU department, or

No

2.(b) is the resus / a&e department not having discretionary and mandatory to transfer patient to ITU department and requires first it to have an ITU department lead doctor arrive into resus / a&e department to do an assessment (for permission) on the patient to see if they should be transferred to their ITU department?

Resuscitation and organ support can be commenced in the Emergency Department. This is usually done by the ED and ITU teams working together. Transfer to ITU only takes place when the patient is safe to be transferred.

3. If your answer to 2.(b) requires resus / a&e department to first seek assessment and permission from ITU department lead doctor who sees the patient before they can transfer patient from resus / a&e department to ITU department, then similarly is their assessment and permission required from other department lead doctors before the patient is transferred from one department to another, for example, transfer from resus / a&e department to acute ambulatory care and transfer from acute ambulatory unit to care of the elderly etc? If not, why is it different to transfer from resus / a&e department transfer to ITU department?

Intensive care is not a geographic location. If a patient is thought to need intensive care the quickest way for this to happen is if the ITU team go to the patient whether this is in ED or on the ward. If the team confirm that intensive care is needed they will transfer the patient when it is safest to do this.