

The critical care unit and/or critical care outreach team are participating in a research study evaluating the importance of the timing of critical illness.

Trained staff collect routine data about the severity of illness both on the ward before admission to Intensive Care, and at the time of admission.

Evaluating how critical illness changes over time, and whether these changes might be important in delivering care

Research Ethics Committee (REC) Reference
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National Information Governance Board (NIGB)
Section 251 Approval Granted

Participant information leaflet V1.2

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What do you mean by sepsis and pathophysiological?

Sepsis is the term used to describe an infection which has systemic not just local effects. Although a tooth abscess is an infection, it is normally limited to local pain and inflammation so we do not call this sepsis. However, pneumonia will cause fever and a fast heart rate which are signs of systemic stress. Because there are links between sepsis and other critical illnesses, we are examining all patients needing intensive care.

Pathophysiological refers to the breakdown of normal regulation of your bodily systems (circulation, kidney function etc.) that occurs in critical illness.

What is (SPOT)light?

(SPOT)light is an observational study designed to evaluate how this pathophysiology evolves over time. We think that timing is important, and if we are correct then this may lead to changes in how we might use new treatments in the future. It may also help us better audit the quality of critical care.

Will being in this study affect my care?

No. The care you receive will be exactly

the same as if the study was not taking place. The study simply involves collecting a small amount of information when you are first seen by a member of the critical care/outreach team.

What information is collected?

We collect:

- The time and date of the first time that you were assessed on the ward.
- How ill you were at this time (for example, your heart rate and your blood pressure).

Who collects this information?

A trained member of staff from critical care/outreach collects the information about each patient.

How is this information used?

The information collected is sent to an independent charitable research organisation called ICNARC (Intensive Care National Audit & Research Centre).

At ICNARC, this information will be analysed to assess how severity of illness changes with time, and whether we can better identify the right time to use different treatments for conditions such as sepsis.

How secure is this information?

ICNARC has a very secure computer system and a strict information security policy that has been approved by the Department of Health. All ICNARC staff sign a contract agreeing to keep data secure and confidential. ICNARC is also registered under the Data Protection Act.

Can patients refuse to give this information?

Yes. If you do not want your information to be used, you have the right to request that this is not sent to ICNARC. If, as family/close friends, you are concerned that the patient would not want this information used (and the patient is unable to say so themselves), then you should discuss this with a member of the critical care/outreach team. Refusing will not affect the care and treatment you or your family/close friends receive.

What if I change my mind about participating?

You can change your mind at any time, you should discuss this with a member of the critical care team. This will not affect your care and treatment.