

Abstract

Dissertation title:

An analysis of the information and communication needs surrounding intensive care unit inter-hospital bed sourcing, referral and transfer coordination

Author's full name:

Marion Keegan

Substantial evidence exists proving the negative effects of a delayed admission to an intensive care unit (ICU) bed. The patient who needs a transfer to an ICU bed can experience delays in the emergency department, on the ward, or in another ICU. ICU bed capacity deficits exist in Ireland and are further compounded by impeded information and communication flow surrounding bed sourcing, referral and transfer coordination. The purpose of this qualitative multisite study was to analyse information and communication needs surrounding the inter-hospital ICU bed sourcing, referral and transfer coordination; and the related intra-hospital discharge coordination. Presently information is transmitted and received by telephone and fax from clinician to clinician in an uncoordinated fashion. Qualitative interviews and open-ended on-line surveys were used to investigate current information flow and based on an analysis of the findings recommendations are made to include a central bed management database.