

Adult Intensive Care Unit (ICU)

STANDARDS

- ICU.1** **Qualified physician is responsible for managing the adult intensive care unit.**
- ICU.1.1 The adult intensive care unit is directed by a physician qualified in critical care medicine by education, training, and experience.
- ICU.1.2 The unit head takes the overall responsibility for the operation of the unit.
- ICU.2** **The adult intensive care unit nurse manager is a qualified registered nurse.**
- ICU.2.1 The nurse manager is a registered nurse qualified by education, training and, experience in managing critically-ill patients.
- ICU.2.2 The nurse manager develops and collaborates with other departments as needed for developing policies and procedures for the unit (e.g., policies and practices related to infection control).
- ICU.3** **The adult intensive care unit is covered by qualified medical and nursing staff.**
- ICU.3.1 The intensive care unit is covered by physicians qualified in managing critically ill patients twenty four hours a day, seven days a week.
- ICU.3.2 Medical staff working in the adult intensive care unit are certified in advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) and are trained on fundamental critical care support.
- ICU.3.3 Nursing staff working in the adult intensive care unit are certified in advanced cardiac life support (ACLS).
- ICU.4** **The adult intensive care unit has admission and discharge criteria.**
- ICU.4.1 The adult intensive care unit identifies its own population based on age and diagnosis related groups.
- ICU.4.2 The admission and discharge criteria are defined in writing.
- ICU.4.3 The criteria for admission are based on physiological parameters.
- ICU.4.4 The criteria are developed collaboratively between relevant staff.
- ICU.4.5 In an open ICU setting, the Most Responsible Physician (MRP) is the admitting consultant whereas in a closed ICU setting, the MRP is a member of the medical staff in the ICU.
- ICU.5** **The adult intensive care unit has an effective handover process.**
- ICU.5.1 There is a documented evidence of handover between physicians at change of shift.
- ICU.5.2 There is a documented evidence of handover between nurses at change of shift.
- ICU.5.3 There is a documented evidence of handover between intensive care nurse and the unit/ward nurse at the time of transfer to a lower acuity of care.