

Date: 19/10/2015

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOI/012456 – patients transferred to ITU

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?

Requirement for ITU is assessed by the ITU clinicians

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

NO

or

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?

YES

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?

Patients are referred to specialties and the identified decision maker from Medicine, Surgery, T&O or Paeds will attend and accept the referral at which point the patient is transferred. In some situations patients may be referred to the appropriate assessment area for the specialty to review the patients there.

Patients' requiring transfer to ITU are by their very nature extremely unwell and often unstable, therefore they will be assessed in ED by Critical Care Specialists before their transfer as they often require specialist lines etc and their 'movement' around the hospital needs to be done in a controlled and planned manner involving clinicians who can manage any complications that may arise.