Public Health England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

ICU Data Capture System
User Guide

Overview of categorisation algorithm to determine ICU-associated infections

About Public Health England

Public Health England exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. We do this through world-leading science, research, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health services. We are an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care, and a distinct delivery organisation with operational autonomy. We provide government, local government, the NHS, Parliament, industry and the public with evidence-based professional, scientific and delivery expertise and support.

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Document History

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Algorithms for Categorising Cases

Introduction

All cases of Bloodstream Infection (BSI) for Intensive Care Units (ICUs) are determined to be either ICU-associated or Pre-ICU based on the algorithms below.

It is not possible for PHE to change the categorisation of a case, as this is based on the data entered by the ICUs and the algorithm is applied to the entire dataset, not on a case-by-case basis; a case may only change from one category to another if the relevant case details are incorrect and require amendment by the ICU.

ICU-associated categorisation

Any ICU patient specimens taken after >2 days after the admission date (or >48 hours if admission and specimen times are also both provided) will be considered ICU-associated.

Pre-ICU categorisation

Any patient specimens not categorised as ICU-associated will be considered to be Pre-ICU. This will typically include any ICU patient specimens taken within the first 48 hours of the ICU admission or any specimens taken prior to ICU admission but the results are provided by the laboratories when the patient is in the ICU.