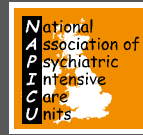


NATIONAL ACCREDITATION FOR Psychiatric Intensive Care and Low Secure Units



One of the main aims for NAPICU is to raise the standards of PICU and LSU care. Members of the Association are keen to assess themselves against standards and to have a system where their good practice is formally recognised. To meet these objectives NAPICU and the CCQI will be launching a system of accreditation entitled Accreditation for Acute Inpatient Mental Health Services for Psychiatric Intensive Care and Low Secure Services (AIMS-PICU / LSU). The accreditation service will be facilitated by the Royal College of Psychiatrists Centre for Quality Improvement and overseen by NAPICU Executive Committee.

A fundamental principle is that of listening to and being led by frontline staff of all disciplines and service users. The accreditation service will apply authoritative services standards in a cycle of self- and peer-review. Accreditation is valid for up to two years, subject to an annual self-review. Members are expected to use the results of reviews to develop action plans to achieve year on year improvement. They are also expected to share their results with key groups locally, including health and local authorities, those making referrals to their services and local user and carer groups.

Service Standards:

The service standards for PICUs and Low Secure Units cover:

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|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1: Admission Criteria | 9: Ethnicity, Culture and Gender |
| 2: Core Interventions | 10: Supervision |
| 3: Multidisciplinary Team (MD) Working | 11: Liaison with other agencies |
| 4: Physical Environment | 12: Policies and Procedures |
| 5: Service Structure- Personnel | 13: Clinical Audit and Monitoring |
| 6: User Involvement | 14: Staff Training |
| 7: Carer Involvement | 15: Support Services |
| 8: Documentation | |

Each year staff members from participating services will review themselves and then each other against a set of service standards. Peer-review teams will include a service user representative and will spend one full day visiting another service. Data from the self- and peer-review will be compiled by the project team into a summary report of the service's strengths and areas for improvement. An Accreditation Advisory Committee (Initially the NAPICU Executive Committee) will consider the data and their recommendation about the accreditation status of the service will be passed to the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Education, Training and Standards Committee (ETSC) for ratification.

The cyclical review process:

