

Intensive Care Services

Christchurch Hospital's Intensive Care Services are made up of:

- Intensive & High Dependency Care unit
- The Deteriorating Patient Intensive Care Outreach Service to support the ward-based care across Christchurch Hospital Campus
- Regional Inter-hospital Transfer Service

The Intensive Care Unit provides tertiary care for the greater South Island. Intensive Care is provided for a variety of patients, including General Medical, General Surgical, Neurosurgical, Cardiothoracic Surgical and Spinal Injury patients. Intensive Care is provided for paediatric patients, although long term or complex paediatric intensive care patients are transferred to Starship Children's Hospital Intensive Care Unit in Auckland.

The Department admits approximately 2000 patients a year, including 350 Cardiac Surgical and 200 Paediatric patients. Of the remaining adult admissions, over 90% are emergency medical or surgical admissions from wards, Operating Theatre, Recovery or Emergency Department. The Department also runs a 24/7 Air Retrieval service and a 24/7 combined Nursing and Medical Deteriorating Patient Outreach Team within Christchurch Hospital. The Department offers opportunities to participate in Research, Audit and Quality Improvement Projects.

The Department is staffed by 16 Intensive Care Specialists, 8 Intensive Care Fellows/Medical Officer, 23 Registrars including ICU trainees and trainees in Anaesthesia, Emergency Medicine, Physician and Surgical programmes.

The Department runs 4 hours per week of including simulation, intensive care resuscitation training program, cardiac surgery advanced life support course, continuing Education and Quality Assurance, including a Journal Club, Medical Presentation, and Morbidity and Mortality meeting. The Basic Assessment and Support in Intensive Care (BASIC) course is offered to new registrars at the beginning of each 6 month run. In addition, the department offers guidance for CICM primary and fellowship examinations with CICM examiners working as SMO's in the department.

For further information:

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