



Accountable Clinician and Critical Care

The Faculty of ICM strongly agrees with the general premise that every patient should have an accountable clinician.

Admission to an intensive care or high dependency unit is an example of where a change in circumstance necessitates a transfer of this accountability for the duration of the time in the higher care unit. However it is appropriate for the referring clinician to maintain contact with the patients progress and to undertake to reassume responsibility for the patient on their discharge from the unit.

Intensivists work in teams, commonly in blocks of days on the unit sharing responsibility for patients during their time in critical care. After discharge back to the ward the intensivists remain accountable for the time in critical care, continue to provide professional support to the patient and the ward team and if appropriate be involved in post discharge rehabilitation in line with NICE 83.