

# Media Information

For immediate use



30<sup>th</sup> July 2010

## **Critical Care in the Borders is performing well**

In a report published on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2010, NHS Borders critical care services are shown to be performing well.

The NHS Services Scotland *Audit of Critical Care in Scotland 2010* is a report of the activity and outcomes in Intensive Care Units (ICU) and High Dependency Units (HDU) across Scotland.

The report shows that the ITU at the Borders General Hospital has one of the lowest lengths of stay in Scotland, and more significantly, the standardised mortality rate (SMR) remains the lowest in Scotland.

Dr Jonathan Aldridge, Lead Consultant in Intensive Care, said “More people than expected are surviving from critical illness across Scotland, and this report shows that the Borders General Hospital continues to lead this trend. This is a very positive report, but we are not complacent. We will continue to work to maintain this standard and look for opportunities improve all aspects of care”

Dr Aldridge believes that the Critical Care Team, especially the ITU nurses and their Critical Care Outreach colleagues, contributed significantly to this excellent result. The rigorous implementation of the Scottish Patient Safety Programme methodologies by the ITU nurses has been key. This is supported by a recent report from the faculty visit of the Scottish Patient Safety Programme which also commended critical care services at the BGH.

The Critical Care Outreach team plays an important role in early identification and robust management of organ failure which means treatment is started early, improving the patients chances of recovery.

Ralph Roberts, Chief Operating officer said, “This is an important report because it demonstrates the effectiveness of the unit and we are very pleased with the results. Borders patients can be reassured that our critical care services continue to provide excellent care. I would like to congratulate our staff for their hard work and commitment.”

**Ends**

**Notes to Editors**

1. Borders General Hospital Intensive Care Unit has participated in the Scottish Intensive Care Society Audit Group data collection on all of its patients since its inception in 1994.
2. The NHS Services Scotland Scottish Intensive Care Society Audit Group, *Audit of Critical Care in Scotland 2010* is available at <http://www.sicsag.scot.nhs.uk/Publications/Main.htm>

**Contacts:**

For further information, contact Public Involvement & Communications on 01896 825589 or 825520