

# Critical Care service review

## What is critical care?

Critical care is the care provided for very ill patients, with life-threatening conditions, who need around-the-clock care from trained specialists. It is usually provided in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) or High Dependency Unit (HDU) in hospital.

Some patients need critical care services either before or after they undergo surgery. Other patients are admitted through A&E departments or come from another ward in the hospital if their condition gets worse.



## What is a service review?

A service review involves examining a service area thoroughly to understand which parts of the service are working well and which are not working as well, to find ways to improve the service further for the good of the patient. This may involve looking at department policies and processes, data analysis, speaking often and regularly to the people who use the service and the doctors and nurses who provide them. Once all this information has been gathered, it is used by managers of the service to help them make a plan for improvement.

## Critical Care services in the Humber region

Critical care services are currently provided at the four main hospitals in the Humber area: Diana Princess of Wales Hospital in Grimsby, Scunthorpe General Hospital, Hull Royal Infirmary and Castle Hill Hospital in Cottingham.

Different levels of critical care may be provided depending on the seriousness of a patient's condition. All four hospitals have dedicated critical care units with a mixture of intensive care (Level 3) and high dependency (Level 2) beds.



## Why do we need to review hospital services in the Humber region?

Advances in medical knowledge and technology have allowed our doctors to develop fantastic services for our hospitals, which, in part, is helping people live longer and survive illnesses that their parents or grandparents might not have. These developments have also enabled more healthcare services to be provided away from hospitals — at GP practices and in the community, for example — while hospitals continue to focus on looking after the most seriously ill patients.

As the ways of delivering care to patients change, an extensive hospital services review is needed to ensure we provide services that are safe and patient-centred, both now and in the future. NHS services need to constantly adapt to provide the best possible care for patients with the resources available. Current challenges, such as rising demand, workforce challenges, finance and quality of care mean that change is necessary to ensure the future of our health services.



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## What happens to critical care patients in the Humber region?

Critical care is an essential part of unplanned (emergency) and planned (elective) care at hospitals. Critical Care in Hull and East Yorkshire consists of four ICUs - two each at Hull Royal Infirmary and Castle Hill Hospital. In North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire, there is one ICU at Scunthorpe General Hospital and an intensive therapy unit (ITU) at Diana Princess of Wales Hospital in Grimsby. Patients may enter critical care in one of the following ways:

### Unplanned

The patient arrives at a hospital A&E department with a critical illness that is apparent at the time. Or the critical illness arises after they have been admitted to hospital — for example, a patient's condition gets worse while they are an inpatient, whether their treatment is planned or an emergency.

### Planned

Critical care is planned as part of a patient's treatment — for example, elective surgery where the surgery or the additional conditions of the patient, alongside their primary disease or disorder, mean that critical care throughout the time period of their surgical procedure (including ward admission, anaesthesia, surgery, and recovery) is required.

Have  
your  
say

Throughout the review process we are keen to hear from members of the public to ensure their feedback and experiences are reflected in any recommendations made. You can do this in a number of ways:

- Email us: [humber.acutereview@nhs.net](mailto:humber.acutereview@nhs.net)
- Phone us: 01482 344711
- Write to us: Humber Acute Services Review, c/o NHS Hull CCG, 2nd floor, Wilberforce Court, Alfred Gelder Street, Hull, HU1 1UY

Find out more about the review at [humbercoastandvale.org.uk/humberacutereview](http://humbercoastandvale.org.uk/humberacutereview)

