InfoFlex®

Declan Fitzgerald, Founder of DMF

InfoFlex benefits

Strong functional capabilities to support the NOCA Irish National ICU Audit project in Ireland:

- The InfoFlex team was already familiar with the ICNARC CMP dataset and clinical diagnostic codes, so were up to speed from the outset
- Strong reporting capability for Irish National ICU Audit, providing high quality information
- Ability to interface with existing PAS and clinical information systems so data are automatically uploaded to InfoFlex for the Irish National ICU Audit
- Ability to support extracting anonymized data that can be sent to ICNARC for further validation and reporting on benchmarked outcomes.

Supportive partner

- Infoflex is the core software for this audit and the InfoFlex team worked with NOCA and DMF to embed the dataset within the software

Irish National Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Audit System

InfoFlex partners with DMF in Ireland to deliver the contract for the Irish National ICU Audit System.

DMF is an established provider of software to the Irish healthcare sector and is the prime contractor with the HSE (Health Service Executive in the Republic of Ireland) for the national ICU audit project. The National Office of Clinical Audit (NOCA), is working with the HSE, to deliver the Irish National ICU Audit to 22 Irish hospitals. The HSE provide the funding while NOCA define the scope of work and operationally manage the audit in collaboration with the Intensive Care National Audit & Research Centre (ICNARC) in the UK.

Declan Fitzgerald, Founder of DMF, saw InfoFlex as the ideal product for the opportunity that the Irish National ICU Audit presented and chose to partner with them. ICNARC were already benchmarking ICUs in the UK through their Case Mix Programme (CMP) and NOCA wanted to take advantage of this expertise. InfoFlex had the facility to collect and store the Irish National ICU Audit dataset, which includes the ICNARC dataset for Ireland. InfoFlex stores this dataset and contains the clinical diagnostic codes which make up the ICNARC Coding Method (ICM).

Issues addressed

"The project has brought huge benefits to those hospitals where it is up and running. We are working to complete implementation to all of the 22 hospitals by the end of 2019. We are also working on the creation of a national database which will allow national reporting on the full Irish National ICU Audit dataset."

Mary Baggot

NOCA Irish National ICU Audit Manager

National ICU Audit - Objectives:

- Measure quality of care in ICUs by benchmarking outcomes
- Use audit to drive improvements in quality of care
- Measure activity to inform configuration of Critical Care

SuperFit for purpose

- Provide data to support HIPE (Hospital Inpatient Enquiries) and ABF (Activity Based Funding)
- Audit HCAI (Health Care Associated Infection)
- Audit of potential organ donors and organ donation

InfoFlex provided the core software system for the collection of the dataset required by NOCA, in line with the objectives above.

The fact that the InfoFlex team was familiar with the ICNARC CMP dataset and coding from the outset has proved hugely beneficial to the project and enabled NOCA and the HSE in Ireland to achieve the very specific objectives outlined above.

Design & implementation

"One of the strong benefits of InfoFlex is reporting capability. We hadn't worked with them before but we knew they had a reputation for good reporting. We have been able to develop a whole series of reports for ICUs. That's been very positive and we have been getting good feedback."

Declan Fitzgerald

Founder of DMF

Firstly, NOCA and ICNARC worked together to create an Irish National ICU Audit dataset.

DMF then worked with InfoFlex to design the software to support this dataset. Included within this data are physiological variables to support critical illness scoring and details of organs supported per patient per day of stay in ICU. Data extracted are reported on by ICNARC, enabling benchmarking of outcomes.

To support the objectives of this project, the availability of interfacing with existing hospital systems with InfoFlex was very important. These systems include the Patient Administration System (PAS) and, where applicable, the Clinical Information Systems (CIS) within the ICU departments. These clinical systems take information from monitors attached to the patient, as well as other clinical information charted electronically at the point of care. The data are then delivered to InfoFlex via a live interface and validated by the ICU Audit Coordinators, before extracting for submission to ICNARC, for further validation and reporting. A significant amount of development was therefore required on all sides to create robust interfaces which automatically passed on the relevant information to InfoFlex. The project is currently on schedule to be rolled out to all 22 hospitals by 2019.

For the future, DMF is also adapting the system to allow these interfaced data to feed a system that will display the occupancy in each unit. This will result in a facility which can manage patient capacity across hospitals and ICUs. Governance for this project is provided by NOCA.

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SuperFit for purpose