



*Commissioning Directorate
Health and Social Care Board
12/22 Linenhall Street
BELFAST
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To: Trust Chief Executives
(including NIAS)

Tel : 
Fax : 
Web Site www.hscboard.hscni.net

27 June 2013

Dear Colleague

Re: Admission criteria for Paediatric Intensive Care Unit

You will be aware that, in February 2013, the HSC Board approved a significant increase in the capacity available in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) in the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children (RBHSC) from 8 to 12 beds. The increase in capacity will support a maximum of 12 PICU beds or the equivalent mix of PICU / HDU capacity as required. This expansion was agreed following a detailed needs assessment which indicated that 12 PICU beds would meet the needs of the paediatric population of Northern Ireland in all but exceptional circumstances.

As part of this expansion, I can confirm that with immediate effect, the PICU in RBHSC will routinely accept children for admission up to their 14th birthday. The previous upper age limit for referrals from other hospitals was 13th birthday.

I should be grateful if you would ensure that this correspondence is shared widely with relevant staff in your trust.

Yours sincerely



Dean Sullivan
Director of Commissioning

CC Trust Medical Directors
Trust Nursing Directors
Trust Directors with responsibility for paediatric services
Trust Directors of Acute Services