

# Intensive Psychiatric Care Units (IPCUs) Project



**Project update/summary**  
**June 2009**

## Background and Purpose

Intensive psychiatric care units (IPCUs) are addressed in NHS Quality Improvement Scotland's (NHS QIS) 3-year strategic work programme, Improving the Quality of Mental Health Services, 2005–2008, where NHS QIS makes a commitment to undertake an audit of IPCUs in Scotland. In addition, the Scottish Government Health Directorates (SGHD) mental health benchmarking study (2008) recommended that NHS boards standardise their definitions of IPCUs.

## Aims

To gather information on:

- the number of IPCUs across Scotland
- how the IPCUs are structured and staffed
- the relationships between IPCUs and other mental health inpatient units
- the referral pathways both in and out of IPCUs, and
- the user and carer experience of IPCUs.

## Progress to date

- IPCU project clinical support recruited
- all NHS board areas have completed and returned service profile form(s)
- visits to all IPCUs in Scotland, and to NHS board areas that don't have IPCU provision, underway and due for completion mid-July 2009, and
- regular steering group and service user and carer group meetings to plan future work.

## Planned outcomes

- all service profiling reports published winter 2009
- national overview report and report of the user and carer experience work published spring 2010 to include:
  - an overview of service provision and the relationships between services
  - identification of gaps in services
  - examples of good practice and innovative service delivery
  - recommendations for service development
- the service profiling work will inform stage 2 of the IPCU project.

## Further information

Please visit our mental health website at [www.nhshealthquality.org/mentalhealth](http://www.nhshealthquality.org/mentalhealth) for more information on the IPCU work and all of our mental health projects. Our strategic work programme 2009-2012 'Improving the Quality of Mental Health Services' will be launched in summer 2009.

NHS Quality Improvement Scotland

**Improving the Quality of  
Mental Health Services,  
2009 – 2012**  
A Strategic Mental Health Work Programme

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