

GLOSSARY

Intensive care unit (ICU)	These are specialist hospital wards that provide treatment and monitoring for people who are very ill. Sometimes known as Level 3 care or critical care units. They are staffed with specially trained healthcare professionals and contain sophisticated monitoring equipment.
Critical care	Also known as intensive care is the care provided to critically ill patients
Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation is the process of adjustment and recovery from injury, illness or disease.
Step-down care	The transition from a higher level of care, such as intensive care, to ward care.
Mechanical ventilation (intubation)	A mechanical ventilator is a machine that takes over the work of breathing when a person is not able to breathe enough on their own.
Non-invasive ventilation	This supports a person's breathing but does not take it over. It involves using a cushioned mask that fits over the mouth and nose or just the nose which is connected to a ventilator machine that blows air as the person breathes.
Critical Care Outreach Team (CCOT)	These are usually nurse-led, doctor-supported teams that can offer critical care expertise and assessment to patients who are, or who are at risk of becoming, critically ill and are located outside the critical care unit, usually on a general/acute ward
Intensive Care National Audit and Research Centre (ICNARC)	A registered charity dedicated to improving critical care by providing information to those who commission, deliver and receive the service through national clinical audits and research studies. www.icnarc.org
Multidisciplinary team (MDT)	A team of healthcare professionals from different disciplines.