

5. Patient observations and review criteria

Key findings

- Notes seldom contained written requests regarding the type and frequency of physiological observations.
- Instructions giving parameters that should trigger a patient review were rarely documented.
- Respiratory rate was infrequently recorded.
- 27% of hospitals did not use an early warning system.
- 44% of hospitals did not provide an outreach service.
- The provision of outreach services was geographically uneven, with a bias toward provision of outreach in English hospitals.