

## EPIC II: The Extended Study on Prevalence of Infection in Intensive Care

The impact of hospital infection is greatest in the intensive care unit (ICU) and an effective response to the problem relies on the availability of up-to-date, adequate epidemiological data. The EPIC (European Prevalence of Infection in Intensive Care) study was performed on April 29, 1992, and allowed the collection of data from more than 10,000 patients in Western Europe.<sup>1</sup>

EPIC II will be performed on **May 8, 2007**, and will be extended **worldwide**. It will represent a major collaborative initiative resulting in the formation of a large database, which will be useful to address a number of fundamental questions.

Data will be collected on:

- demographics in the ICU
- infection control and procedures
- antibiotic policies and prescribing
- associated risk factors for infection
- degree of organ dysfunction and need for organ support
- patient outcomes

We hope to enrol as many units as possible and, therefore, invite you all to participate. The only requirement is that participating units will enrol all patients in the study. Each unit will be required to complete one form on the demographics of the ICU itself plus one form for each patient on the ICU or admitted to the ICU on the day of the study – May 8, 2007. The worst values for the day will be collected. In each center, the ICU director or a deputy will be responsible for the data collection.

The data forms will be sent by email, and completed forms can be returned either electronically or by regular mail.

This study will be observational and non-interventional, and patient data will be anonymous. Permission must be requested from each institution's ethical committee according to local requirements.

The Study is supported by the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine and other scientific organizations.

We hope you will join us in this exciting venture.



Jean-Louis Vincent, on behalf of the Steering committee: Antonio Anzueto, Jeff Lipman, John Marshall, Claude Martin, Rui Moreno, Konrad Reinhart, Jordi Rello, Eliezer Silva, Jean-Louis Vincent (chair)

### Reference

1. Vincent JL, Bihari D, Suter PM, et al: The prevalence of nosocomial infection in intensive care units in Europe - The results of the EPIC study. *JAMA* 274:639-644, 1995.