

■ **Direct costs incurred by patients admitted to the paediatric ICU (PICU) who develop nosocomial primary bloodstream infections are far higher than those incurred by noninfected patients** with similar underlying diseases and number of ventilator days, according to a prospective study conducted in a US hospital. Costs of all PICU admissions between September 1999 and May 2000 were assessed from a hospital perspective. After controlling for patient age, underlying disease, severity of illness and ventilator days, direct costs were significantly higher among patients with, than without, nosocomial infections (\$US45 615 vs \$US6396). *"The prevention of these infections through specific interventions is likely to be cost-effective"*, conclude the researchers.

Elward AM, et al. Attributable cost of nosocomial primary bloodstream infection in pediatric intensive care unit patients. *Pediatrics* 115: 868-872, No. 4, Part 1, Apr 2005

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