

Evidence gap identifier	INEWS 1
Brief title	Effectiveness of early warning score educational programmes for healthcare workers
Report	<u>The Irish National Early Warning System (INEWS)</u>
Date identified	19/02/2018
Identified by	CICER
Supported by	Systematic review
Population	Healthcare professionals, healthcare managers
Intervention	Education programmes (training) on early warning systems for physiological deterioration in adults
Comparator	Standard care, other education programme
Outcome(s)	Knowledge and performance; effect on patient outcomes; patient rescue strategies; documentation of patient observations; compliance; effectiveness of mode of delivery (i.e. online vs. face-to-face delivery)
Setting	Acute healthcare
Study design	Randomised controlled trials (RCTs); development and validation
Further information	There was a lack of high quality evidence to evaluate the effect of early warning score (EWS) educational programmes. Existing evidence was characterised by small sample sizes, variation in educational programmes, differences in how the effect of the intervention is measured, duration of follow-up, operational definition of outcomes, settings, and reporting. Future research is needed to address these limitations. Ideally study designs of a more rigorous methodological quality are needed, preferably RCTs where blinding is maintained, including a large sample of a range of healthcare professionals; a standardised approach to the educational programme(s); measurement of their effect (using validated tools) and a core set of outcomes (with standardised operational definitions).