

Table 1 Characteristics of the study sample of children admitted to the paediatric intensive care unit (PICU) (*n* = 423)

Variable	No.	%
Age (years)		
< 2	294	69.5
≥ 2-6	129	30.5
Sex		
Male	217	51.3
Female	206	48.7
Duration of stay (weeks)		
< 1	95	22.5
≥ 1	328	77.5
PICU bed occupancy rate		
2/5 (40%)	142	33.6
3/5 (60%)	95	22.5
4/5 (80%)	137	32.4
5/5 (100%)	49	11.6
Cause of admission (underlying diseases)		
Respiratory	119	28.1
Neurological	87	20.6
Gastrointestinal tract	85	20.1
Cardiac	59	13.9
Other ^a	73	17.3
PRISM score		
1-9	77	18.2
10-19	168	39.7
20-29	100	23.6
≥ 30	78	18.4
Presence of iatrogenic illness		
Yes	97	22.9
No	326	77.1
Type of iatrogenic complication^b		
Human error		
Yes	78	18.4
No	345	81.6
Mechanical error		
Yes	19	4.5
No	404	95.5
Outcome		
Dead	32	7.6
Alive	391	92.4

^aDiabetic ketoacidosis, renal conditions, organophosphorus poisoning, septicæmia, preoperative preparation, postoperative care and drug poisoning.

^bAccording to Joseph et al. [3].

PRISM = paediatric risk of mortality [6].