

Table 1 Critical care services at 3 selected hospitals from the Central Region in Saudi Arabia

Variable	Rowaidat Al-Ardh Hospital, Rowaidat Al-Ardh	Hospital Wadi Al-Dawaser Hospital, Wadi Al-Dawaser	King Abdulaziz Medical City, Riyadh
Level ^a	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
No. hospital beds	30	96	800
Type of ICU (No. ICU beds)	General (2)	General (5) Neonatal (7)	Medical-surgical ICU (21) Burns (8) Neonatal (19) Paediatric (6) Paediatric cardiac (6) Coronary care (9) Cardiovascular (9) Adult step-down (8) Liver step-down (2) Intermediate care nursery(28)
Medical director	None	Part-time; no critical care certification	Full-time, critical care certified ^a
Medical staffing	No special ICU medical staff; patients cared for by primary care doctors	3 intensivists	10 full-time, critical care certified consultants ^a
Certified in critical care (%)	0	0	100 ^a
Coverage type	Open unit	Open unit	Closed unit ^a
No. of nurses	3	6	102 ^a
Nursing training	1 month ICU training	ICU experience	70% critical care certified; 30% have minimum of 2 years ICU experience ^a
Respiratory therapy	None	None	Established respiratory care department ^a
No. of ventilators	2	6	100
Daytime cover	Primary doctors	ICU doctors	24-hour cover by on-site consultant; residents and fellows also on-call ^a
Night-time & weekend cover	Hospital on-call registrar	Off-site	

^aThese data refer to the medical-surgical ICU.