

Upcoming Meetings

Transfer Meeting - 21st May 2024 @ 1pm

Transfer Meeting - 4th June 2024 @ 1pm

Upper Limbs positioning working group - 5th June 2024 @ 1pm

CCOT meeting - 10th June 2024 @ 2.30pm

Data & Audit Leads meeting - 11th June 2024 @ 10am

Welcome to the Kent, Surrey and Sussex adult critical care network quarterly newsletter

Tackle Sustainability in Critical Care

The Network's Sustainability subgroup is on a mission to support our critical care units to introduce greener practice. Their recent meeting focused on sharing best practices for implementing sustainable and innovative initiatives in this crucial care setting.

- Estates: Optimizing energy use and waste management infrastructure.
- Pharmacy: Exploring ways to minimize medication waste and promote greener packaging.
- Finance: Providing resources and budget allocation for sustainable projects.

Why Sustainability Matters in Critical Care:

Sustainability in Intensive Care Units (ICUs) is no longer a "nice to have" – it's a necessity. By adopting sustainable practices, we can:

- Reduce our environmental impact: From waste reduction to energy conservation, sustainable practices help minimize the environmental footprint of critical care.
- Meet NHS targets: The NHS has ambitious sustainability goals, and ICUs play a significant role in achieving them.

Overcoming Staff Resistance: The Gloves Off Campaign

One of the recent meeting's key discussions focused on staff resistance to change. The NHS-wide "Gloves Off" campaign, aiming to reduce unnecessary glove use, highlights this challenge. Ingrained habits can be difficult to break.

The group hopes to tackle this challenge head-on by:

Education and Awareness: Providing staff with resources on:

- Auditing glove usage to identify areas for improvement.
- Understanding when gloves are truly necessary.
- Promoting proper hand hygiene as a crucial alternative.

Sharing Knowledge, Facing Challenges:

The Network's discussions revealed a diverse landscape:

- Varied Sustainability Activities: ICU units across the Network are at different stages in their sustainability journeys. Some have implemented successful programs, while others are just starting out.
- Varied Trust Level Support: The level of support for sustainability initiatives varies across Trusts. Collaboration is Key.

The Network's Sustainability subgroup meets every six weeks. The next meeting is on **June 27th**. Units interested in boosting their sustainability efforts are warmly encouraged to join! Together, we can create a greener future for critical care within the Network.

The subgroup emphasizes the importance of cross-departmental collaboration. Success hinges on the involvement of teams such as:

Let's make a difference, one sustainable step at a time!



Share your content in our next newsletter!

For example; forthcoming study days or completed or ongoing QI projects,

please send an email: medwayft.kssccn@nhs.net

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all those who completed their D05 Service Spec Gap analysis.

Analysis and benchmarking of this information is underway.

Attend the next clinical forum on **June 26th** for results.

Network Occupational Therapists Form Working Group to Champion Upper Limb Positioning

The Network is proud to announce the launch of a new working group dedicated to optimizing upper limb positioning for patients across our network. This crucial initiative is spearheaded by the Occupational Therapist group in the network. Leigh Connors, who is the Team Lead Occupational Therapist (Critical Care) at Darent Valley Hospital reports that working group aims to develop comprehensive guidance for all member facilities.

Why Upper Limb Positioning Matters:

Proper positioning of the upper limbs plays a critical role in patient care, recovery, and long-term well-being. It can significantly impact:

- **Functional Use:** Ensuring optimal positioning helps patients maintain or regain as much functional use of their hands and arms as possible. This can improve independence in daily activities and enhance quality of life.
- **Skin Integrity:** Incorrect positioning can lead to pressure injuries and other skin complications. The working group will focus on strategies to prevent these issues.
- **Pain Management:** Proper positioning can help alleviate discomfort and promote a more comfortable recovery experience for patients.

The working group are committed to:

- **Developing Evidence-Based Guidelines:** The group will gather and analyse current research to create a comprehensive set of best practices for upper limb positioning.
- **Sharing Knowledge and Resources:** They will develop educational materials and resources for Network staff, ensuring everyone has the knowledge to implement these best practices effectively.

Promoting Collaboration: The working group will foster communication and collaboration between member facilities, allowing for knowledge sharing and continuous improvement.

Leigh shares a summary of what the working group hope to achieve below:

Aim: Our primary goal is to ensure optimal functional use and care for patients' hands and upper limbs.

Key Focus Areas and Actions:

Creation of Informative Resources:

Lucy is capturing photos illustrating various hand and upper limb positions, including static hand positioning, grasp, and up-and-down movements. These visuals will serve as valuable reference materials for nursing staff, promoting consistent and appropriate positioning practices.

Development of Patient Engagement Tools:

Fraser is leading the drafting of an "I Can Do" board, aiming to empower patients by highlighting their current abilities, goals, and aspirations. This initiative aims to enhance patient autonomy and motivation throughout their rehabilitation journey.

Exploration of Neuromuscular Stimulation:

During our discussions, the potential use of neuromuscular stimulation was explored as a complementary approach to upper limb rehabilitation.

Overall, our working group remains committed to advancing best practices in upper limb care within the critical care setting. By equipping healthcare professionals with valuable resources and patient-centered tools, we strive to optimize patient outcomes and experiences.

We eagerly anticipate the valuable insights and guidance this working group will deliver. Stay tuned for future updates on their progress in upcoming newsletters. Together, let's ensure optimal care for our patients' hands and upper limbs.



Calling all Healthcare Assistants and Nursing Associates in Critical care: Elevate your Critical Care skills with the Network's FREE 2 Day study event!

The Network is thrilled to invite all Healthcare assistants (HCAs) and Nursing Associates (NAs) to a FREE 2- day study event focusing on Critical care practice. This is an incredible opportunity to enhance your knowledge, skills and confidence in caring for critically ill patients, ultimately empowering you to better support the Multidisciplinary team.

This comprehensive study event will delve into various aspects of critical care including caring for a deteriorating patient in critical care, supporting a patient with tracheostomy and rehabilitation needs in critical care, end of life care, sustainability practices in critical care and how to support yourself emotionally and psychologically to prevent burn out. These sessions, we hope, will provide you with more tools and knowledge that you need to deepen your expertise in critical care, furthermore, helping you to excel in the dynamic environment of critical care.



A Network professional development 2 days study event – FREE

Date: 24th and 25th June, 2024

Time: 0800-1630

Venue: Crowne Plaza London, Gatwick. Langley drive, Crawley.
RH11 7SX

Kent, Surrey and Sussex ACC ODN is inviting you to a 2 day Network professional development study event in Critical care clinical practice.

The Aim of the 2 day event is to:

- To promote understanding and clinical skills that can be used in supporting patients in critical care.
- To explore how to recognise and support deteriorating patients in critical care .
- To gain practical skills to support patients undergoing rehabilitation in critical care.
- To acquire practical tools to stay well as a staff in critical care

Topics that will be covered include:

DAY 1

- Care of the deteriorating patient
- Care of the patient undergoing rehabilitation (2 sessions)
- Care of the tracheostomy tube

DAY 2

- ICU ESCAPE –digital simulation on clinical topics like deteriorating patients and tracheostomy emergencies.
- End of life care and bereavement support
- Stressors, Self-care and Psychological PPE as a HCSW in ICU
- Embedding psychological safety: practical tools and strategies
- Sustainability-supporting a green ICU in critical care practice

Interested Nursing Associates and Healthcare assistants in critical care should get in touch with their Units' Education team for registration to this event.

For further information, contact: medwayft.kssccn@nhs.net

What to expect on the day

- In-depth sessions: Gain valuable insights into critical care principles, procedures, patient assessment, monitoring, and effective communication.
- Skill development: Focus on practical skills essential for critical care, allowing you to provide compassionate and competent care to critically ill patients.
- Confidence building: Enhance your confidence in caring for critically ill patients and feel empowered to contribute effectively to the MDT.
- Collaboration and networking: Connect with fellow HCAs and NAs from across the Network, fostering valuable peer-to-peer learning and professional relationships.

Event Details:

Dates: **24th and 25th of June 2024.**

Location: **Crowne Hotel, Gatwick**

What's Included: Free parking, refreshments throughout the event, and a fantastic opportunity to network with colleagues.

This is a unique chance to significantly elevate your critical care knowledge and skills. Spaces are limited, so we encourage you to register early!

Registration Process:

To secure your spot at this valuable learning opportunity, simply reach out to your unit's Practice Education Team. They will be happy to assist you with the registration process. We highly encourage all HCAs and NAs to take advantage of this free event. By participating you'll be better equipped to provide exceptional care to critically ill patients within the Network.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Network launches Patient Safety Initiative for Passy-Muir Valves

Exciting news to promote patient safety! The Network has established a working group dedicated to ensuring the safe use of Passy-Muir Valves (PMVs) across our Network. The Network recognises the importance of providing consistent guidance across all member units. Led by Georgina Linstead, this group will develop valuable resources and guidance to benefit everyone. The working group is diligently exploring best practices and crafting resources. Georgina shares insights below

"The PMV Working Group was initiated after Frimley Park Hospital shared an SI from 2023 & learning around the use of Passy-Muir Valve in-line with mechanical ventilation. It was identified that there is variation in practice both regionally & nationally with very little specific guidance. The Working Group has representation from Critical Care Nurses, Practice Development, Physiotherapists & Speech & Language Therapists & is developing a regional benchmarking survey & fact-finding exercise which will also be extended to national special interest groups. The aim of this is to establish current practice, themes surrounding safety aspects, training needs, available educational resources & accepted best practice. The hope is from that we can develop/ utilise a Network-wide consensus re: key safety aspects of this therapeutic intervention & educational resources to support staff."

The Network will keep you updated on their progress and share the valuable information they develop in future issues of this newsletter.

UKCCNA Workforce Optimisation Plan and staffing standards 2024-2027

The UKCCNA Critical Care Nursing Workforce Optimisation Plan and Staffing Standards 2024-2027 are officially launched.

Critical Care Nursing Workforce Optimisation Plan and Staffing Standards 2024-2027



This three-year workforce optimisation plan (2024-2027) provides evidence-based standards for critical care registered nurse staffing. It provides the case for change, with a framework to support career development and a sustainable model for staffing, in order to improve nurse retention.

There are several areas addressed:

- Adoption of Critical Care staffing standards
- Implementation of the Adult Critical Care Nursing Career Pathway
- Education minimum standards (including numbers of clinical nurse educators)
- Restorative supervision (through roles such as the professional nurse advocate)
- The role of the wider associate / support staff group
- Regular review of staffing establishments incorporating increased unavailability of registered nurses to deliver safe patient care

The standards in nurse staffing chapter in the new version of GPICS which will be out later in the year will also mirror the content in this document.

We expect that this document will help provide the stability to ensure the future of critical care nursing in the UK.

The document will also be held on the UKCCNA section of the FICM website: <https://www.ficm.ac.uk/ukccna>. A direct link to the document can be found [here](#).

Mark Your Calendars! The ICS State of the Art Congress 2024 Returns Bigger Than Ever!

Calling all Intensive Care professionals! The Intensive Care Society's (ICS) State of the Art (SOA) Congress is back for 2024, promising an unparalleled experience for anyone dedicated to the field.



SOA is the largest event for intensive care in the UK and one of the largest multi-professional meetings in Europe. Year-on-year we bring you a fresh and exciting programme of learning and networking. SOA24 at the ACC Liverpool 18 - 20 June 2024, promises to build on our previous Congress with an even more interesting and varied programme covering many aspects of intensive care medicine and beyond.

The Venue:

The 2024 SOA Congress will be held at the ACC Liverpool, an impressive and conveniently located venue. This state-of-the-art facility provides the perfect setting for learning, collaboration, and networking.

Dates for Your Diary:

Mark your calendars for June 18th to 20th, 2024 – these are the dates you won't want to miss!

The SOA Congress isn't just about work! There will also be a dedicated social program. This is your chance to unwind, relax, and connect with colleagues in a more informal setting. Enjoy great music, delicious food, and build lasting relationships with fellow attendees.

The ICS State of the Art Congress is a must-attend event for anyone passionate about critical care. It's a remarkable opportunity to expand your knowledge base, network with colleagues, and discover the future of critical care.

For more details on the program, speakers, and registration, please visit the official website [Intensive Care Society | State of the Art Congress \(ics.ac.uk\)](https://www.intensivemedsociety.org.uk/State-of-the-Art-Congress).

Meetings

Below is a list of dates for upcoming Adult Critical Care Network meetings and events

If you have any queries regarding these meetings please contact medwayft.kssccn@nhs.net

Date	Time	Meeting	Location
21st May 2024	13.00 - 14.00	Transfer Meeting	MS Teams
4th June 2024	13.00 - 14.00	Transfer Meeting	MS Teams
5th June 2024	13.00 - 14.00	Upper Limbs positioning working group	MS Teams
10th June 2024	14.30 - 15.30	CCOT meeting	MS Teams
11th June 2024	10.00 - 11.00	Data & Audit Leads meeting	MS Teams
18th June 2024	13.00 - 14.00	Transfer Meeting	MS Teams
24th June 2024	08.00 - 16.30	HCA/ NA study event	Crowne Plaza Hotel
25th June 2024	08.00 - 16.30	HCA/ NA study event	Crowne Plaza Hotel
26th June 2024	09.00 - 12.30	Clinical Forum	MS Teams
27th June 2024	10.00 - 11.00	Sustainability meeting	MS Teams
2nd July 2024	13.00 - 14.00	Transfer Meeting	MS Teams