

RCN Acute Care Symposium 2025

Advances in acute care: exploring the latest
innovations and developments



Friday 20 June 2025

Royal College of Nursing
20 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0RN

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Welcome

Dear Colleague,

On behalf of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN), welcome to the RCN Acute Care Symposium 2025 – Advances in acute care: exploring the latest innovations and developments.

We trust that you will find the event stimulating and informative and that you'll have an opportunity to network with colleagues during the event. We hope you will go away feeling inspired, invigorated and armed with information to share with colleagues in your workplace.

The RCN believes in life-long learning and actively promotes the continuing professional development of nurses. For this reason, certificates of attendance are provided and the framework for reflection can be found on the reverse. You are encouraged to contribute attendance at RCN events towards your framework for reflection which can be included in your portfolio.

At the end of the event, you will receive an email with a link to the online conference evaluation. We'd be grateful if you would complete this as soon as possible and within seven days of the conference. Your comments and feedback are invaluable in helping us plan future RCN conferences.

RCN staff and committee members are on hand to answer any queries you may have regarding your membership. Or if you're a non-member, they can inform you of the many benefits of joining the RCN. As a member, you can join any number of the RCN Forums. Forums have active Facebook groups that provide you with the opportunity to connect with colleagues and keep up to date on current practice related issues.

The RCN has professional forums across the diverse nursing arena and RCN members can join as many of these forums as they wish. Forums are a huge area of influence and direction for the RCN and are a valuable opportunity to network with colleagues around the UK and be involved in consultation responses, conferences, events and workshops, and forum-led publications. Find out more at: <https://www.rcn.org.uk/Get-Involved/Forums-and-networks>

We'd like to thank you for supporting this conference and look forward to welcoming you back to future RCN events. A full list of future events can be found on page 18 of this conference brochure.

With best wishes,

Jason Cross
Chair, RCN Acute Care Symposium 2025

Programme at a glance

Programme at a glance			
9.00	Registration, exhibition and networking		
10.00	Chair's opening remarks Jason Cross, RCN Perioperative Forum, POPS ANP & Nurse Lead, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust		
10.15	Current challenges and future direction of nursing Lynn Woolsey, Chief Nursing Officer, RCN		
10.45	Perspectives of Delirium - Understanding Delirium: Risk Factors, Identification and Management Kerry Lyons, Consultant Admiral Nurse for Frailty and Physical Health, Dementia UK Melissa Grundy, Consultant Admiral Nurse for Frailty and Physical Health, Dementia UK		
11.15	Refreshments, exhibition and networking		
11.45	Cardiac arrest: new guidelines, innovation and modernisation Luke Winterbourne, Nurse Practitioner, Royal Army Medical Services and Salford Royal Hospital		
12.15	Transition time		
12.25	Concurrent sessions (repeated after lunch)		
Room	Cowdray Hall	101/102	307
	50 shades of diabetes Tamsin Fletcher-Salt, Clinical Diabetes and Endocrinology Team Leader, Clinical Lead for Diabetes Inpatients NHSE (Midlands Network), University Hospital of North Midlands Chair: Kendal Andreason, RCN Professional Lead for Acute and Emergency Care and Defence Nursing	Managing the care of patients undergoing emergency laparotomy: learning from the National Emergency Laparotomy Audit (NELA) and Emergency Laparotomy and Laparoscopic Scottish Audit (ELLSA) Angeline Price, Chair, RCN Perioperative Forum, Advanced Practitioner, Salford Royal Hospital Victoria Richmond, Senior Nurse for Unscheduled Surgery, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee	Options for managing acute pain Karin Cannons, Nurse Consultant Pain Management, Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust
13.00	Lunch, exhibition and networking		

14.00	Concurrent sessions		
Room	Cowdray Hall	101/102	307
	50 shades of diabetes Tamsin Fletcher-Salt, Clinical Diabetes Diabetes and Endocrinology Team Leader, Clinical Lead for Diabetes Inpatients NHSE (Midlands Network), University Hospital of North Midlands Chair: Kendal Andreason, RCN Professional Lead for Acute and Emergency Care and Defence Nursing	Managing the care of patients undergoing emergency laparotomy: learning from the National Emergency Laparotomy Audit (NELA) and Emergency Laparotomy and Laparoscopic Scottish Audit (ELLSA) Angeline Price, Chair, RCN Perioperative Forum, Advanced Practitioner, Salford Royal Hospital Victoria Richmond, Senior Nurse for Unscheduled Surgery, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee	Options for managing acute pain Karin Cannons, Nurse Consultant Pain Management, Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust Chair: Ciara Collins, Chair, RCN Critical Care and Flight Nursing Forum
14.30	Transition time		
14.35	Panel discussion: advancing your career in nursing Chair: Jason Cross, RCN Perioperative Forum, POPS ANP & Nurse Lead, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust Suman Shrestha , RCN Professional Lead for Critical Care and Perioperative Care, Consultant Nurse, Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust Professor Natalie Pattison , Professor of Clinical Nursing, University of Hertfordshire / East and North Herts NHS Trust FS Lucy Reading , Critical Care Air Support Team, Royal Air Force		
15.05	Refreshments, exhibition and networking		
15.35	Working with spinal cord injury patients in low income countries Fiona Stephenson FRCN, Expert Witness, Health Care Capacity Adviser, Tessa Gough Associates		
16.05	Chair's closing remarks Jason Cross, RCN Perioperative Forum, POPS ANP & Nurse Lead, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust		
16.15	Conference close		

General information

Conference enquiries

Please ask staff on the registration desk if you have any specific requirements regarding access, dietary requirements, lost property or have queries regarding your membership.

Badges

For security purposes, participants must wear their badges at all times. Participants will not be admitted to the conference sessions without the appropriate badge.

Programme

Please refer to the programme for details of the times and locations of all conference sessions. Staff will be on hand to guide you as necessary.

Q&A

Roving microphones will be available during question times for the audience to use. Any person chosen to ask a question should announce their name and workplace before asking their question. Following a response, they may be invited to comment on that response.

Event evaluation

We aim to produce high quality events for all our delegates. An event evaluation will be emailed to all delegates. Please spare 5 minutes, your feedback helps us plan future events.

Exhibition

There is a small exhibition running alongside this event. These exhibitors have chosen to exhibit at this conference as they feel their products and/or services may be of interest to you. The exhibition also supports the conference, therefore please take the time to go and visit each exhibition stand during the exhibition viewing times.

Receipts

If you require a receipt or have any queries relating to your registration or payment for this event, please contact staff on the registration desk at the event. Alternatively, receipts are also available by contacting RCN Event Registrations direct on 029 2054 6460 between 9.00am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

Electronic devices

Out of courtesy to others, delegates are requested to switch off or set to silent all electronic devices during conference sessions.

Smoking

20 Cavendish Square operates a no-smoking policy (this includes electronic cigarettes). This means that smoking is prohibited in any part of the building including the restaurant patio area and the access areas to the building; for example the main steps and ramp to 20 Cavendish Square and by the goods entrance at 1a Henrietta Place.

Toilets

Toilets are located on the lower ground or first floor, and accessible toilets on the ground floor.

Fire Evacuation Procedure

In the event of an evacuation:

- If the alarm sounds, please make your way to the nearest fire exit. The meeting point is Cavendish Square Gardens.
- Use the stairs – do not use the lifts.
- Anybody who would need help to evacuate the building should let reception or the organiser know when they enter the building so the venue is aware in the case of a fire alarm.
- If anyone is trapped or in need of assistance, please inform Reception or a Fire Marshal.

Assembly Point

- Cavendish Square Gardens is the assembly point.
- Cross the road using the zebra crossing or traffic lights, it is dangerous to cross the road at any other place.
- Please remain in Cavendish Square Gardens until a Fire Marshall instructs you otherwise.

Liability

The RCN will not accept any liability for loss or damage to personal effects which may arise as a result of attendance at this event.

Continuing Professional Development

The RCN believes in lifelong learning and actively promotes the continuing professional development of all nurses. Authorised RCN certificates of attendance have been issued to all participants. This event is also subject to the RCN Events quality assurance framework. You should log what you have learnt at this event using the Framework for Reflection guidelines on the back of your certificate and keep this document in your personal professional portfolio.

Free information at your fingertips

The RCN offers several FREE online resources with all the latest information and guidance on nursing practice issues such as clinical guidelines, patient safety and eHealth - see <http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/practice>.

Media partner

RCNi is the premier provider of innovative and creative information solutions for the whole nursing team and associated health professionals. With 11 nursing journals, including Nursing Standard, RCNi provide health professionals with the latest developments impacting nursing, including changes in policy, practice and research. RCNi also offer a range of digital products including RCNi Learning, an interactive online resource of CPD training modules, and the RCNi Portfolio, an online store and tracking system to help you with revalidation.



Speaker information

Conference chair:

Jason Cross, RCN Perioperative Care Forum

POPS ANP & Nurse Lead, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust

Biography

Jason was a committee member for the RCN Perioperative nursing steering group for a number of years before election to forum chair in December 2021. He stepped down from this role at the end of 2024.

Jason is the nurse lead for POPS (Perioperative medicine for the Older Person undergoing Surgery) at Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust.

In addition to this he has input into medical student, junior doctor and ward nurse education programmes. He has spoken nationally and internationally on the use of comprehensive geriatric assessment (CGA) in the surgical setting, developing the workforce and on his role as an independent practitioner. Previous work has included working with the RCN, HEE and the British Geriatric Society in developing a curricular and competency framework for nurses wishing to direct their career towards perioperative care. He was a member of the expert panel for the NICE perioperative care guideline.

Specialist interests include:

- management of the surgical patient with complex medical co-morbidities
- pre-operative comprehensive geriatric assessment of the surgical patient
- staff education focusing on older patients needs in hospital.
- workforce development.

Lynn Woolsey, Chief Nursing Officer, RCN

Talk title: Current challenges and future direction of nursing

Biography

Lynn joined the RCN as the UK Deputy Chief Nurse in September 2023. She provides strategic leadership, management and coordination for Nursing with a focus on workforce, practice and regulation across all fields of Nursing and across all four countries of the UK. Lynn was previously Deputy Chief Nursing Officer within the Department of Health Northern Ireland, Assistant Director of Nursing and Midwifery for Workforce and Education with responsibility for the workforce across acute and primary care, as well as all fields of practice including adult, children's, mental health and learning disability services, and Transformational Lead and Assistant Director for an acute mental health and learning disabilities hospital.

Lynn's clinical, managerial and leadership roles across the NHS, private and education sectors have focused on the nursing workforce, including nursing

support workers, pre and post registration education, regulation, clinical practice and leadership.

In addition to professional qualifications, Lynn has achieved a post-graduate qualification in Education, Strategic Workforce Planning and Coaching as well as an MSc.

**Kerry Lyons, Consultant Admiral Nurse for Fertility and Physical Health,
Dementia UK**

**Melissa Grundy, Consultant Admiral Nurse for Frailty and Physical Health,
Dementia UK**

Talk title: Perspectives of Delirium – Understanding Delirium: Risk Factors, Identification, and Management

Summary:

Understanding Delirium: Risk Factors, Identification, and Management

Delirium is an acute clinical syndrome characterised by sudden changes in consciousness or alertness, often developing within hours or days. It is particularly prevalent among older adults, especially those with dementia, frailty, or pre-existing cognitive impairments. Hospital inpatients with dementia are significantly more likely to experience delirium.

Key risk factors include age, frailty, and cognitive impairment. Delirium can be brief or persist for months, and in some cases, recovery may not occur. Increasing awareness and education for families and carers are crucial for prevention, early identification, and treatment.

Preventing delirium involves strategies to maintain cognitive function, physical health, and a supportive environment. Early identification and intervention are essential for effective management. Nurses play a vital role in recognising symptoms, implementing preventive measures, and providing compassionate care, which significantly improves patient outcomes.

Understanding patient and carer experiences highlights the human aspect of delirium, emphasising the importance of education and resources for those affected. Various standardised assessment tools, non-pharmacological and pharmacological interventions, and supportive care are essential components of delirium management.

Learning outcomes:

1. Identify Risk Factors and Symptoms: By the end of this session, participants will be able to identify the key risk factors for delirium, including age, frailty, and cognitive impairment, and recognise the symptoms associated with sudden changes in consciousness or alertness.

2. Implement Prevention and Management Strategies: Participants will understand and be able to implement various strategies for preventing delirium,

such as maintaining cognitive function and physical health, and will be better equipped to consider the management of delirium through early identification, non-pharmacological interventions, and appropriate use of medications.

3. Appreciate personal Experiences: Participants will gain insight into the experiences of patients and carers dealing with delirium, emphasising the importance of education, support, and compassionate care in improving outcomes and highlighting the human aspect of the condition.

These outcomes will help ensure that you leave the session with a better understanding of delirium and practical approaches to managing it.

Recommended reading list / references:

<https://www.bgs.org.uk/deliriumhub> <https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/mental-health/problems-disorders/delirium> <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg103>

Biography:

Kerry is a Consultant Admiral Nurse specializing in frailty and physical health at Dementia UK. After qualifying as an RGN at Manchester University in 1996, she completed further postgraduate studies. Kerry has published several times and received national awards for nursing innovation from the British Medical Journal, Nursing Times, RCNi, and HSJ. In 2019, she became Lead Acute Admiral Nurse, earning the RCNi Commitment to Carers Award and UK Dementia Practitioner of the Year Award. In January 2023, she took her first national Consultant Nurse post at Dementia UK. Kerry's personal journey includes supporting her grandfather and her mother with dementia.

Melissa is the Consultant Admiral Nurse for Frailty and Physical Health at Dementia UK. She qualified as an RGN at De Montfort university in 2005, later completing further postgraduate studies. Melissa's career spans roles from staff nurse in surgery and community hospitals to Lead Admiral Nurse working in acute care, she has a specialist interest in Delirium. Melissa's experience with dementia and supporting families/carers pursues her dedication and passion to improving care for others. She joined Dementia UK in 2025 as a Consultant Admiral Nurse for Frailty and Physical Health.

Luke Winterbourne, Nurse Practitioner, Royal Army Medical Services/Salford Royal Hospital

Talk title: Cardiac arrest: new guidelines, innovation and modernisation

Summary:

A 30-minute presentation to discuss changes expected in updated guidelines, based on the current ILCOR recommendations.

Learning outcomes:

1. To update on 2025 Resuscitation Council UK Guidelines
2. To explore innovation in life support and resuscitation
3. To explore modernisation in life support and resuscitation

Recommended reading list / references:

Resus Council UK (2021) Advanced Life Support

Biography:

Luke registered as a nurse in 2014 after graduating from the University of Salford, where he is now studying for his MSc Advanced Clinical Practice. Having worked at Salford and Bolton hospitals, in theatres recovery, emergency nursing, resuscitation and education, he now works as a Trainee AP in Major Trauma. Luke has also been a keen Army Reservist since 2014 with 206 Multi-Role Medical Regiment (formerly 207 Field Hospital) and has deployed overseas on Op MINUSMA in Mali as a resus head of department and provided medical support for the Jungle Warfare Division in Brunei working as a Nurse Practitioner.

Tamsin Fletcher-Salt, Diabetes and Endocrinology Team leader, Clinical lead for Diabetes Inpatient NHSE (Midlands Network), University Hospital of North Midlands

Talk title: 50 Shades of Diabetes

Summary:

Diabetes management in acute care is an evolving landscape. This presentation will highlight emerging trends and persistent challenges in providing optimal care for this complex patient population. We will discuss the impact of new technologies, strategies for managing diabetes in the context of other acute conditions, and the critical role of the acute care nurse in advocating for patient-centred, evidence-based diabetes management.

Learning outcomes:

1. By the end of the session participants will be able to identify the different types of diabetes
2. By the end of the session the participants will be able to identify and be able to treat common emergencies
3. By the end of the sessions the participants will recognise diabetes technologies and be able to manage the patients appropriately

Recommended reading list / references

1. <https://abcd.care/resource/current/jbds-02-management-diabetic-ketoacidosis-adults>
2. <https://abcd.care/resource/current/jbds-01-hospital-management-hypoglycaemia-adults-diabetes-mellitus>
3. <https://abcd.care/resource/current/jbds-01-hospital-management-hypoglycaemia-adults-diabetes-mellitus>

Biography:

Tamsin has worked in the NHS for 15 years and has been a DSN for the last 10 years and works at the Royal Stoke University Hospital part of the University Hospital of North Midlands NHS Trust.

Tamsin's current role involves being team leader for the diabetes and

endocrinology nurse team, the role encompasses both inpatient and outpatient responsibilities and is very clinical in nature. She is a non-medical prescriber.. Tamsin is the clinical lead for diabetes inpatients NHSE (Midlands Network) Tamsin is also director for the DSN Forum UK Ltd. Tamsin has completed her MSc in Diabetes Management with Kings College London.

**Angeline Price, Advanced Practitioner, Salford Royal Hospital
Chair, RCN Perioperative Forum
Victoria Richmond, Senior Nurse for Unscheduled Surgery, Ninewells Hospital,
Dundee**

Talk title: Managing the care of patients undergoing emergency laparotomy: learning from the National Emergency Laparotomy Audit (NELA) and Emergency Laparotomy and Laparoscopic Scottish Audit (ELLSA)

Summary:

This presentation will provide an overview of emergency laparotomy care across the UK, describing the key stages of the perioperative pathway from emergency department to theatre, critical care and surgical ward. We will discuss the specific perioperative care needs of patients undergoing emergency laparotomy. Using data from the National Emergency Laparotomy Audit and Emergency Laparotomy and Laparoscopic Scottish Audit we will outline the key components of recognised best practice across the care pathway and discuss how these can be implemented in clinical practice.

Learning outcomes:

1. Identify which patients undergo emergency laparotomy and describe the perioperative care needs of this group across the care pathway.
2. Describe the National Emergency Laparotomy Audit and Emergency Laparotomy and Laparoscopic Scottish Audit, and how these can be used to improve care for this group of patients.

Recommended reading list / references:

NELA Project Team. Ninth Patient Report of the National Emergency Laparotomy Audit. Royal College ELLSA Project Team (2022) The Second Report of the Emergency Laparotomy and Laparoscopic Scottish Audit (ELLSA) of Anaesthetists (RCoA), London, 2024

Biography:

Angeline qualified as a nurse in 2009 and has worked in a variety of clinical settings across acute and community care in both cardiology and geriatric medicine. She completed an MSc in Advanced Clinical Practice and developed a special interest in the perioperative care of older people, delivering an in-reach service into colorectal, upper GI and emergency general surgery. Angeline's research focusses around the peri-operative care of older people, in particular those undergoing emergency laparotomy.

Angeline is the current Chair of the Perioperative forum committee and is passionate about increasing awareness of the perioperative care needs of older

and complex patients across the whole pathway through education and shared learning.

Vicky has worked in a variety of roles over her 20 years of nursing, from medical admissions, cruise ship nursing, surgical elective and now within unscheduled surgical care.

Her wealth of experience has enabled her to form a Surgical Frailty Team in Scotland. This team specialised in screening all patients over 65 into unscheduled care. Her success in this role has now allowed her to become Senior nurse within the front door area to unscheduled surgery. Whilst the role is diverse within its nature, she remains focused upon patient centred care through all aspects of the patients journey.

Karin Cannons, Nurse Consultant Pain Management, Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust

Talk title: Options for managing acute pain

Summary:

Pain is an unpleasant experience for all patients. if poorly managed, it has harmful effects on patients' recovery and well-being. Pain causes a variety of ill effects. Even after discharge from ICU our patients who have had pain are at the higher risk for developing chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorders. Other features of the ICU admission such as sleep/sensory deprivation, anxiety, and delirium increase pain and amplify its effects. Other medications producing sedation and paralysis complicate pain relief. Recognition, Assessment and Treatment of pain are essential to its management. All staff working with critically ill patients need to know how to recognize pain signs, symptoms and behaviours; deploy appropriate assessment tools; and be able to formulate a robust pain management plan that might include a variety of pharmacological agents and non-pharmacologic techniques. As is widely reported in the literature, more than half of critically ill patients report moderate to severe pain at rest and 80% experience pain during procedures with fewer than 25% receiving analgesics before painful procedures. This is unacceptable. We have options to change this patient experience into a more comfortable one, and to ensure our patients have the best chance of recovering their health.

Learning outcomes:

1. Recognize common sources and presentations of acute pain in critically ill patients.
2. Identify appropriate pain assessment tools
3. Differentiate between commonly used pharmacologic options and incorporate non-pharmacological interventions

Recommended reading list / references:

Nordness MF, Hayhurst CJ, Pandharipande P. Current perspectives on the assessment and Management of Pain in the intensive care unit. Journal of Pain Research. 2021;14:1733-1744; Narayanan M, Venkataraju A, Jennings J. Analgesia in intensive care: Part 1. BJA Education. 2016;16(2):72-78; Damico V, Macchi G,

Murano L, Forastieri MA. Incidence of pain at rest and during nursing procedures in ICU patients: A longitudinal observational study. *Annali di Igiene*. 2020;32(4):407-418

Biography:

Karin trained at St Bartholomew's hospital in London. She spent most of her early career immersed in caring for patients having general, neuro or cardiothoracic surgery or those who were critically ill. Karin moved into pain management in 1999 and is a Nurse Consultant at Frimley Health NHS Trust. She leads and works clinically in 3 services that see inpatients and outpatients referred to the chronic pain clinic. Her current research and audit focus is removing long-acting opioids from post operative pathways. She is a member of the steering committee of the RCN's pain and palliative care forum.

Panel discussion: advancing your career in nursing

Suman Shrestha, RCN Professional Lead for Critical Care and Perioperative Care, Consultant Nurse, Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust

Suman Shrestha is a Consultant Nurse in Critical Care at Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust in the United Kingdom. He is a qualified Advanced Critical Care Practitioner and Associate Member of the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine (FICM). He has a wide range of clinical, managerial, and academic experiences within healthcare. He is also a visiting lecturer at Brighton University (UK).

He is also Professional Lead for Critical Care and Perioperative Care at the Royal College of Nursing. He provides professional leadership, support and advice to the college and its members relating to critical care and perioperative care. He is also currently a Board member of the Centre for Perioperative Care, NEWS2 Independent Advisory Board, Intensive Care Society Standards and Guidelines committee and the Faculty of Intensive Care Safety Bulletin.

Professor Natalie Pattison, Professor of Clinical Nursing, University of Hertfordshire/East and North Herts NHS Trust

Natalie is a clinical academic who has worked clinically in cancer, critical care and critical care outreach. She is a Professor of Clinical Nursing with a joint appointment across the University of Hertfordshire and East and North Herts NHS Trust (ENHT). She is the clinical lead for critical care follow-up services in ENHT, combining this with a research role. Her research interests focus on her clinical area of critical care and critically ill ward patients, critical care recovery, end of life in critical care, and disability in critical care. She is widely published in critical care supportive care.

Natalie is Chair of the National Outreach Forum, past-Chair of UK Critical Care Research Group, and the UK Critical Care Nursing Alliance. She is also Deputy Lead for the National Institute for Health Research National Specialty Group for Critical Care.

Lucy Reading, Critical Care Air Support Team, Royal Air Force

Lucy graduated from the University of Manchester in 2008 and launched her nursing career at Manchester Royal Infirmary, where she dedicated four years to Critical Care. In 2012, she joined the Royal Air Force, further honing her skills in critical care across various Joint Hospital Groups throughout the UK. Over the course of her career, Lucy has undertaken two operational tours: OP HERRICK in Afghanistan and OP TRENTON, a UN Peacekeeping mission in South Sudan.

Currently, Lucy is based at the John Radcliffe Hospital, while also serving as a flight nurse with the RAF Critical Care Air Support Team. Her primary passion and expertise lie in aeromedical evacuation, encompassing both the logistics and the intricate processes involved in the evacuation of critically ill personnel from overseas. Additionally, Lucy has invested three years in the RAF Nurse Recruitment Team, playing a vital role in recruiting and training new nursing talent for the RAF. Her diverse experiences underscore her unwavering commitment to delivering excellent care within both civilian and military environments.

Fiona Stephenson FRCN, Expert Witness, Health Care Capacity Adviser, Tessa Gough Associates

Talk title: Working with spinal cord injury patients in low income countries

Summary:

People who sustain a spinal cord injury in low middle income countries face challenges especially following a sudden onset disaster. This presentation showcases examples of nursing care to reduce morbidity and mortality in this vulnerable patient cohort, following earthquakes in Haiti and Nepal.

Learning outcomes:

1. Explain do's and don'ts when volunteering/working in low middle income countries (LMIC)
2. Identify the needs of the person who has sustained a spinal cord injury in a LMIC
3. Describe prevention measures to reduce morbidity and mortality risks in this patient cohort

Recommended reading list / references:

WHO. 2025. Minimum technical standards and recommendations for SCI management in emergencies. Stephenson, F. 2012. Transforming care for patients with spinal cord injury in Haiti. Nursing Times. 2016. A do's and don'ts guide for rehabilitation professionals.

Biography

Fiona Stephenson has over 40 years of nursing experience and found her passion in spinal cord injury (SCI) nursing care, through volunteer work after the earthquakes in Haiti in 2010 and in Nepal in 2015. Fiona became a Fellow of the RCN in 2016 and she has been an active member of the International Spinal Cord Society and on its Education, Disaster and Nurse Committees for many years.

She is co-founder of The International Network of SCI Nurses. She volunteers regularly to advise on international healthcare capacity building in SCI care. Fiona also set up England's first, and extremely successful, transitional care spinal injury centre linked to the NHS. She is a core member of the WHO SCI working group. She was awarded the UK Cavell Nurses Trust's International Impact Award in 2017 and in 2018 the 'Points of Light' award by the UK Prime Minister for exceptional services to spinal cord injury. At present Fiona works as a medico-legal Expert Witness and advises on SCI health care capacity building.

Exhibitor listings

The following organisations have supported the RCN Acute Care Symposium but have not had any input into the agenda, content or materials of the event.

The Royal College of Nursing would like to thank the following organisations for supporting this event.

Name	Weblink
Dermal	https://www.dermal.co.uk/
RCN Library	www.rcn.org.uk/library/
RCN Forums	www.rcn.org.uk/Get-Involved/Forums-and-networks

The RCN welcomes sponsorship from the health care industry to deliver educational initiatives and events for the nursing profession. Financial support is accepted where there is clear alignment in objectives and strong grounds that the collaboration will add value to the RCN's educational offer.

The RCN works to ensure that all commercial activity is ethical, mutually beneficial and complies with the Bribery Act and relevant codes of practice e.g. Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries and Association of British Healthcare Industries.

Sponsorship or exhibition led activity does not imply endorsement by the RCN of any products and services displayed by the sponsors or exhibitors at an RCN event.

Acknowledgements and thanks

RCN Perioperative Nursing Forum Committee
RCN Critical Care and Flight Nursing Forum Committee
RCN Emergency Care Forum Committee
RCN Defence Nursing Forum Committee

RCN Staff

Fiona Clark, Events Organiser
Millie Shepherd-Gill, Events and Marketing Administrator
Matthew Bates, Business Development and Partnerships Executive
Gary Shanley, Senior IT AV Engineer

Future RCN Events

Find out more: www.rcn.org.uk/events

Date	Event	Location
23 June	RCN Children in Care Nursing Conference	Online
8-10 September	RCN International Nursing Research Conference	University of Exeter and Online
15 September	Activism in Retirement: What the future holds	RCN HQ, London
2 October	RCN Fertility Nursing Conference	RCN HQ, London
10 October	RCN Advanced Nurse Practitioner Conference	Online
14 November	RCN Trauma and Orthopaedic Nursing Conference	RCN HQ, London
28 November	Joint RCN and SOM Occupational Health Nursing Conference	RCN HQ, London and Online
9 December	RCN Women's Health Forum Conference	RCN HQ, London
15 December	Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Conference	RCN HQ, London
14 March	RCN Ophthalmic Nursing Conference	RCN HQ, London
17 June	RCN Long Term Conditions Conference	TBC