

RCN Advanced Nurse Practitioner conference 2026

The Power of Advanced Nursing Practice



Friday 2 October 2026

RCN HQ, London

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Welcome letter

Dear Colleague,

On behalf of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) and forum, we welcome you to the RCN Advanced Nurse Practitioner Conference 2026.

We trust that you will find the conference stimulating and informative and that you'll have an opportunity to network with colleagues during the course of the event. We hope you will go away feeling inspired and 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, you are encouraged to contribute attendance at RCN events towards your framework for reflection which can be included in your portfolio.

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 also 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. With 202105 forum members, forum membership is set to continue to rise. The ANP forum has 13066 members currently and all the 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 beyond allowing us to be involved in:

- consultation responses
- conferences, events and workshops
- forum-led publications

We'd like to thank you for supporting this conference and look forward to welcoming you back to future RCN events. A full listing of future events can be found at the end of this conference brochure.

With best wishes,
Sharlene Hogan, Forum Chair – Advanced Nurse Practitioners

Programme at a glance

09.00	Registration, exhibition, networking and refreshments
09.45	Chair's Opening Remarks Sharlene Hogan, <i>Chair, RCN Advanced Nurse Practitioner Forum</i>
10.00	Defining the True Value of Advanced Practice in Modern Healthcare Professor Alison Leary MBE FRCN, <i>RCN Deputy President</i>
10.30	Update on the Review of Advanced Practice – Development of Additional Regulation for Advanced Level Nurses Paula McLaren, <i>Senior Nursing Adviser for Advanced Practice, The Nursing and Midwifery Council</i>
11.00	Refreshments and exhibition viewing
11.30	Strong Basics. Better Outcomes. Dr Kate Allatt, <i>Author, Health Speaker, Consultant, Kate Allatt Ltd</i>
12.00	Finding the Confidence to Deliver Autonomous Practice in the Community Maria Betts, <i>Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Northern Health and Social Care Trust, Northern Ireland and RCN ANP Forum Member</i>
12.30	The Role of Research within Advanced Nursing Practice – Factors Affecting Engagement Caitriona McGarrell, <i>Emergency Injuries Advanced Nurse Practitioner. Registered Nurse Prescriber. Emergency Department St James Hospital, Dublin</i>
13.00	Lunch and exhibition viewing
14.00	Teaching for Impact: Shaping Practice Through Learning Professor Aisha Holloway, <i>Chief Nursing Officer for Scotland, and Chair of Nursing Studies, University of Edinburgh</i>

14.30	Adaptive Leadership in Advanced Practice: Thriving Amidst Uncertainty and Change Dame Sue Tranka DBE, <i>Chief Nursing Officer and Nurse Director NHS Wales</i>
15.00	Refreshments and exhibition viewing
15.25	My Advanced Clinical Practitioner Journey Carolyn Campbell-Cole, <i>Consultant Arrhythmia Nurse, St George's NHS Foundation Trust</i>
15.55	Panel Discussion – Advanced Nursing Practice under Scrutiny: A Conversation on Policy, Regulation and Workforce <u>Chair:</u> Sharlene Hogan , <i>Chair, RCN Advanced Nurse Practitioner Forum</i> <u>Panellists:</u> Professor Lynn Woolsey , <i>RCN UK Chief Nursing Officer</i> Professor Aisha Holloway , <i>Chief Nursing Officer for Scotland, and Chair of Nursing Studies, University of Edinburgh</i> Dame Sue Tranka DBE , <i>Chief Nursing Officer and Nurse Director NHS Wales</i> Paula McLaren , <i>Senior Nursing Adviser for Advanced Practice, The Nursing and Midwifery Council</i>
16.25	Closing Remarks Adele Parsons, <i>Vice Chair, RCN Advanced Nurse Practitioner Forum and Senior Lecturer at University of Lincoln</i>
16.30	Conference close

General information

Conference enquiries

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

Delegate 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.

Exhibition

There is an 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.

Specific requirements

Please ask at the registration/enquiries desk if you have any specific requirements (e.g. dietary, accessibility etc.)

Electronic devices

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

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 Royal College of Nursing believes in lifelong learning and actively promotes the continuing professional development of all nurses. Authorised Royal College of Nursing 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 Royal College of Nursing offers a number of FREE online resources with all the latest information and guidance on particular nursing practice issues such as: clinical guidelines, patient safety and eHealth. Visit <http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/practice> for more information.

National conference partner

LV= General Insurance, one of the UK's largest personal lines insurers, pride themselves in putting customers at the heart of all they do. RCN members can benefit from exclusive* discounts and savings on a range of LV= insurance products, including Car and Home insurance, for a quote and more information visit LV.com/RCN.

*Exclusive RCN member discount vs general public prices on lv.com and through the call centre



Acknowledgement and thanks

RCN Advanced Nurse Practitioner Forum – Planning Committee

Sharlene Hogan	Chair, RCN Advanced Nurse Practitioner Forum
Adele Parsons	Vice Chair, RCN Advanced Nurse Practitioner Forum
Mithun Thampi	Committee Member, RCN Advanced Nurse Practitioner Forum
Joanna Das	Committee Member, RCN Advanced Nurse Practitioner Forum
Maria Betts	Committee Member, RCN Advanced Nurse Practitioner Forum
Edith Donnelly	Member, RCN Advanced Nurse Practitioner Forum

Events management team

Kim Hawley	Events Organiser, RCN Events
Sally Faley	Business Events Manager, RCN Events
Sarah Stephenson	Events and Marketing Administrator, RCN Events
Fiona Clark	Events Organiser, RCN Events

Plenary speaker abstracts

Sharlene Hogan, Chair, RCN ANP Forum

Biography:

Sharlene graduated with a masters in cardiology from Brighton and Sussex University in 2011 and also qualified as a Non-Medical Prescriber in the same year. In 2017 she successfully completed a module at master's level in 'Innovation and Leadership' at South Bank University. Her nursing career started in 1991 when she trained to become a registered general nurse at London South Bank University and qualified in 1994.

Within the last four years, Sharlene has changed from working within the NHS and is now employed in the independent sector, joining a pioneering global group of Advanced Nursing Practitioners, in a senior role that is novel in the Clinical Research Organisation industry. Leveraging her clinical and research experience as well as extensive autonomous practice expertise, she has applied these skills to the cardiovascular therapeutic arena. Within this role some of the activities she is involved in include therapeutically focused business development, medical monitoring of research subjects including safety analysis of aggregate data, review of laboratory results as well as reviewing protocol and other research documents, while mentoring and teaching other team members about the scientific background of investigational products or devices.

Before joining the private industry, Sharlene worked at Guy's & St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust, to develop a new service as the Lead Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Lower Gastrointestinal Surgery. It was a challenging and great opportunity that allowed her to use her cardiac expertise while gaining new skills and knowledge in management, leadership and staff development. The nurse practitioners as well as Sharlene replaced the FY1 doctors and manage the ward patients' clinical needs.

[Read more](#)

Professor Alison Leary MBE FRCN, RCN Deputy President

Biography:

Alison Leary MBE FRCN FQICN is a Professor of Healthcare & Workforce Modelling at London South Bank University and a Senior Consultant, World Health Organization Human Resources for Health Group. She works on the mathematical modelling of healthcare systems and workforces around the world, with her research focusing on safety critical industries/work. She is a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing and Queens Institute for Community Nursing. She was awarded an MBE in 2019 for modelling safety in the English Football League. She registered with the NMC in 1996 and worked in haematology, oncology, palliative and pre-hospital care. She is a Trustee of the British Association for Immediate Care.

Talk Title: Update on the review of Advanced Practice – development of additional regulation for advanced level nurses

Summary: This session will provide an update on the NMC's review of Advanced Practice, including the Principles for Advanced Practice which were launched in June 2025 and the ongoing work to ensure that advanced practice is considered as part of the NMC reviews of the Code and revalidation. The session will also outline additional work to develop standards for advanced level practice and the proposed process that will be developed to support the transition of existing advanced level nurses and midwives into new regulation. The timeline for the launch of standards will be shared and there will be an opportunity to ask questions and share your thoughts on the work.

Learning Outcomes:

1. identify the reasons for additional regulation for advanced level practice
2. describe the work undertaken to date and how the evidence has been gathered
3. describe the benefits of additional regulation to patient safety and public protection

Recommended reading list/references:

1. <https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards/future-standards/advanced-practice-review/>

Biography:

Paula is Senior Adviser for Advanced Practice leading the NMCs review of advanced practice, as well as leading the prescribing portfolio, supporting all things independent and supplementary prescribing for nurses and midwives.

Paula is a registered general nurse, having trained in Australia and moved to the UK in 1995.

Paula has worked in a variety of roles within secondary care, primary and community services, higher education and transformation, involved in the development of GP Federations and Training Hubs across North London. Paula was involved in setting up volunteer 'health champions' in GP practices and developing research practices to improve patient outcomes.

Paula is leading the programme of work to collaboratively develop additional regulation for nurses and midwives working at an advanced level. Paula is an independent prescriber and continues to work clinically as a Consultant Nurse in General Practice.

Talk Title: Strong basics better outcomes

Summary: At 39, Kate Allatt survived a devastating brainstem stroke that left her with locked-in syndrome while raising three young children. After 10 months in hospital, she founded the global charity Fighting Strokes, turning personal adversity into international advocacy. Kate is the internationally published author of *Running Free: Breaking Out of Locked-In Syndrome*, a TEDx speaker, researcher, and Honorary Doctorate recipient.

As an expert patient consultant working with the NHS leadership, nurses and all clinical professions, she champions patient-centred care, challenges NHS risk aversion and hospital-associated deconditioning. She believes it's possible to reduce deconditioning and costs of care.

Her remarkable journey inspires others to believe that resilience, determination, and hope can achieve the extraordinary.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Reduce deconditioning and reduce care costs

Recommended reading list/references:

1. <https://amzn.eu/d/05AyjzpZ>

Biography:

At 39, Kate Allatt survived a devastating brainstem stroke that left her with locked-in syndrome while raising three young children. After 10 months in hospital, she founded the global charity Fighting Strokes, turning personal adversity into international advocacy. Kate is the internationally published author of *Running Free: Breaking Out of Locked-In Syndrome*, a TEDx speaker, researcher, and Honorary Doctorate recipient.

Maria Betts, Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Northern Health and Social Care Trust

Talk Title: Finding the confidence to deliver autonomous practice in the community

Summary: The Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) role is increasingly recognised as a key component of workforce transformation, supporting the delivery of safe, effective and person-centred care within District Nursing services. This presentation explores the role of the ANP in District Nursing in Northern Ireland, highlighting the drivers, frameworks, benefits and challenges associated with advanced practice. Drawing upon personal professional development and current evidence, it examines how ANPs contribute across the four pillars of advanced practice: clinical care, leadership, education and research. A case study will demonstrate the effectiveness on the role with positive patient outcomes and improved service delivery through the use of a

Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment. The presentation will discuss the opportunities and challenges facing ANPs in District Nursing, including role recognition, regulation and workforce planning, and will reflect on how confidence, lifelong learning and clinical expertise enable ANPs to deliver high-quality autonomous care closer to home.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Describe the role of the Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) in District Nursing and explain how it contributes to the four pillars of advanced practice within District Nursing services.
2. Identify at least three benefits and three challenges associated with implementing ANP roles in District Nursing, including their impact on patient outcomes, workforce transformation and service delivery.
3. Apply the principles of Comprehensive Geriatric Assessments and autonomous clinical decision-making to a community-based case study involving an older person living with frailty.

Recommended reading list/references:

1. Northern Ireland Practice and Education Council (NIPEC) (2023). Advanced Nursing Practice in Northern Ireland: Analysis and Recommendations. International Council of Nurses (ICN) (2020).
2. Guidelines on Advanced Practice Nursing 2020. Morris, L., Moule, P., Pearson, J., Foster, D. & Walsh, N. (2021).
3. Patient view of the advanced practitioner role in primary care: A realist-informed synthesis. *Musculoskeletal Care*, 19(4), 462-472.

Biography:

Maria has been a registered nurse for 22 years with 18 of those working in the community setting. She has a master's in nursing and is a Non-Medical Prescriber. She also has a master's in advanced nursing Practice. Maria currently works full time as an Advanced Nurse Practitioner in District Nursing. Maria supports district nursing teams to deliver high quality, person-centred care. Maria has extensive experience of working with people with long-term conditions and palliative care/end of life care needs in their own homes/care homes. Maria has a keen interest in palliative care and frailty. She has published 3 papers regarding these areas. Maria holds the accolade of Queen's Nurse.

Catriona McGarrell, Emergency Injuries Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Emergency Department, St James Hospital, Dublin

Talk Title: The role of research within Advanced Nursing Practice- factors affecting engagement

Summary: The presentation highlights a national Irish study exploring research activity among Advanced nursing and midwifery practitioners. While research is a core competence of advanced practice, engagement remains inconsistent despite professional and policy expectations. The study aimed to examine research participation

and understand what it means to be "research active" within advanced nursing and midwifery practice.

The most significant barrier to research engagement was lack of time, with many participants reporting that research, education, audit and mandatory training were completed outside of working hours. Competing clinical demands, limited managerial support, inadequate research culture and restricted access to resources further hindered participation.

The study identified protected research time, mentorship, academic collaboration and organisational support as key facilitators to research engagement.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Participants should be able to identify barriers and facilitators within their own practice related to research engagement and through open discussion at the end of the presentation be inspired and see the benefit to incorporating and making time for research activity alongside their clinical workload.

Recommended reading list/references:

1. Department of health. (2022) Report of the expert review body on nursing and midwifery. McCarthy, Gallagher&Dowling (2024) the factors that facilitate or hinder the advanced practitioner in their research role. Nursing and midwifery planning and development unit, HSE west mid west.

Biography:

Caitriona McGarrell is an Emergency Injuries Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner and Registered Nurse prescriber with 20 years nursing experience, of which she has spent 18 years within the Emergency Department at St James Hospital, Dublin, Ireland.

Since obtaining her BScN with Trinity College Dublin in 2006, she has completed her PgDip in Emergency Nursing and her master's in advanced nursing Practice including a Certificate in Medical Prescribing and Ionising Radiation.

She has held a range of senior clinical and leadership roles and has worked as an RANP for the past 8 years. She currently represents St James Hospital RANPs on the Nurse Executive Team and is an Adjunct Teaching Fellow in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at TCD. She has a strong professional interest in advancing the role of ANPs and expanding career progression opportunities within nursing.

Professor Aisha Holloway, Chief Nursing Officer for Scotland, and Chair of Nursing Studies, University of Edinburgh

Biography:

Professor Aisha Holloway took the role of Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) for Scotland in November 2025. She is also Chair of Nursing Studies, The University of Edinburgh. She also maintains her role as Adjunct Professor at Johns Hopkins School of Nursing and is a Fellow of the RCSI and RCN.

Aisha is formerly Programme Director for the global programme Nursing Now Challenge the largest global community network of early career nurses, midwives and students. She recently worked for the WHO HQ in Geneva, with a specific focus on workforce. Most recently sat on the state of the Worlds Nursing (SoWNN) steering committee launched in May 2025.

She has held a number of Government, Non-Government Advisory and Board roles within the UK and Internationally.

She has built a strong research programme spanning 30 years in public health and alcohol and workforce with a strong focus on health policy and political nurse leadership.

Dame Sue Tranka DBE, Chief Nursing Officer and Nurse Director NHS Wales

Biography:

Dame Sue Tranka is the Chief Nursing Officer for Wales and Nurse Director of NHS Wales providing strategic leadership for nursing, midwifery, patient safety and healthcare quality across Wales. Appointed in 2021, she became the first person from a minority ethnic background to hold a CNO position in the United Kingdom.

Sue trained as a midwife, registered general nurse, mental health nurse and community nurse, bringing more than 3 decades of experience in clinical practice, leadership and health system improvement. Prior to joining the Welsh Government, she served as Deputy Chief Nursing Officer for NHS England, leading on patient safety and innovation.

Recognised for her commitment to quality improvement, workforce development and reducing health inequalities, Sue is an Honorary Visiting Professor at Cardiff University and a fellow of the Queen's Nursing Institute, and Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), Faculty Nursing & Midwifery.

In October 2020 and 2024, Sue was listed among the Health Service Journal's 50 most influential people in health from a Black, Asian and minority ethnic background.

In June 2026, Sue was awarded a Damehood for services to nursing in the King's birthday honours list.

Carolyn Campbell-Cole, Consultant Arrhythmia Nurse, St Georges NHS Foundation Trust

Talk Title: My ACP Journey

Summary: This presentation explores my journey as an Advanced Clinical Practitioner (ACP) and demonstrates how the four pillars of advanced practice, clinical practice, research, education, and leadership, work together to improve patient care and service delivery. Drawing on real-world experience in arrhythmia services, the presentation highlights the progression from early professional development through to advanced clinical decision-making, service redesign, workforce development, and system leadership.

A practical case study illustrates how research-informed service redesign led to the development of an ACP-led implant pathway. Through audit, benchmarking, workforce analysis, governance structures, and multidisciplinary collaboration, the pathway reduced waiting times from 12 months to 2 weeks while maintaining safety and improving patient access.

The presentation also examines the role of education in developing confident and capable practitioners through supervision, mentorship, and structured learning. In addition, it explores the distinction between leadership and management, emphasising the importance of influencing change, fostering collaboration, and supporting professional growth.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Understand how the four pillars underpin advanced clinical practice.
2. Recognise the role of research and quality improvement in service redesign.
3. Explore the impact of education and supervision on workforce development.
4. Identify leadership behaviours that support safe, sustainable, patient-centred care.

Recommended reading list/references:

1. Health Education England (2017). Multi-professional framework for advanced clinical practice in England. London: HEE. The foundational framework defining the four pillars of Advanced Clinical Practice.
2. NHS England (2025). Centre for Advancing Practice: Advanced Practice Resources and Standards. Provides current national guidance, accreditation standards, and governance principles for advanced practice roles.
3. Royal College of Nursing (RCN) (2018). Advanced Level Nursing Practice: Principles and Standards. London: RCN. Outlines professional standards, scope of practice, and expectations for advanced nursing roles.

Biography:

Carolyn is a Lead Nurse in Arrhythmia at St. George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and an Honorary Lecturer at Kingston University. A driving force behind nurse-led innovation, she has developed and implemented advanced clinical pathways, including a nurse-led non-medical ICM and arrhythmia nurse services.

Carolyn is an Independent Prescriber and among the first clinicians nationally to complete the NHS England accreditation for Advanced Clinical Practice, positioning her at the forefront of national healthcare transformation. She holds a master's degree, PGDip and academic professional practice in education and is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA).

Carolyn has shared her expertise internationally, guiding colleagues from the Netherlands and Norway who are using her syncope service as a benchmark for developing their own. She led a workshop on syncope service design for visiting clinicians and has presented both nationally and internationally, including showcasing her pioneering work on non-medical intracardiac implantation at the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) Congress.

A national presenter, contributor to professional literature, and passionate educator, Carolyn is committed to advancing cardiovascular care and mentoring the next generation of clinical leaders.

Lynn Woolsey, RCN UK Chief Nursing Officer

Biography:

Lynn Woolsey is the UK Chief Nursing Officer at the Royal College of Nursing. She provides strategic leadership to the Royal College of Nursing, its members and to the wider nursing workforce across all four countries of the UK. Lynn represents the RCN 570,000 plus members voices, working closely with regulators, professional bodies, UK senior stakeholder groups and Governments.

Lynn was previously the UK Deputy Chief Nursing Officer for the College, and prior to that held the position of Deputy Chief Nursing Officer within the Department of Health Northern Ireland. Lynn's experience spans strategic leadership roles, and she has led significant system wide initiatives and projects to raise the profile and standing of nursing as well as service transformation to improve patient care and experience. In addition, Lynn has held operational service delivery roles across acute and community settings for adult, children's, mental health and learning disability services. Lynn is currently a Visiting Professor to the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences at the University of Ulster and is the European Board member for the Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation.

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

Adele Parsons, Vice-Chair, ANP Forum and Senior Lecturer, University of Lincoln

Biography:

Adele Parsons is a vice-chair of the RCN ANP Forum, she works as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Lincoln where she works across a post-registration portfolio which includes advanced practice and professional advocacy. Adele is also a proud Queen's Nurse and a committee member of the Association of Advanced Practice Educators.

Exhibitors

We'd like to thank our exhibitors who support our conference.

Medpace

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RCN Library and Museum

RCN Learn

RCN events are sponsored by our industry partners by way of exhibition booths. Industry partners have not influenced the rest of the event's educational content or the choice of speakers.

Future RCN Events

Date	Event	Location
6 October	RCN Retired Members' Conference	RCN HQ, London
15 October	RCN Fertility Nursing Conference	RCN HQ, London
17 November	RCN Nurse-Led Innovations and Quality Improvement Conference	RCN HQ, London
18 November	RCN Student Ambassador Conference	RCN HQ, London
23 November	RCN Nursing Support Workers' Conference	RCN HQ, London / Online
27 November	RCN and SOM Occupational Health Nursing Conference	RCN HQ, London
8 December	RCN Women's Health Forum Conference	RCN HQ, London