

Forum Name & Introduction:

Critical Care and Flight Nursing Forum

The Forum provides professional representation for critical care and flight nurses within the medical assistance and aviation industry.

The Forum aims to share best practice by organising study events such as the annual Flight Nursing study day, acute care conference and webinars. In addition, it provides an opportunity for CPD and to network with other nurses in the industry.

Our objectives are:

- Visible presence in critical care and flight nursing nationally
- Provide leadership and direction within each speciality
- Promote education and professional development for our nursing community
- Develop and promote standards and guidelines to evidence best practice
- Actively engage with forum members

Membership of the forum:

We currently have 8775 members which is increased from 8535 last year. Our social media platforms have continued to gather new members over the course of 2025, and this is an area we wish to continue to grow and develop to disseminate the work of the forum most effectively.

Reflections on 2025 (Outputs and outcomes)

- **Annual Flight Nursing Conference 2025** themed '*Care in the air*' was very well attended by 105 delegates. It is the only flight nursing related conference in the UK and was evaluated very well. The key Learning outcomes were:
 - Follow the journey of a patient from start to finish by highlighting the role of the case managers, understanding the various clinical and logistical considerations of aeromedical transfer and reflecting on the role of the flight nurse.
 - Develop a better understanding for everything indemnity related.
 - Explore aeromedical transfer from a pilot's perspective through real-life examples.
 - Understand what support is available for commercial airliner and what this may look like.
 - Explore challenges through an expert panel discussion.
- **RCN Acute Care symposium 2025:** "*Advances in acute care: exploring the latest innovations and developments*" was very successful and attended by 74 delegates. Main learning outcomes were to:

- Understand the patient perspective and impact on acute care
 - Consider and explore current challenges in emergency and perioperative care
 - Gain up to date knowledge and explore new guidance and innovations in emergency care
 - Discuss and debate development of the nursing workforce and the journey to advanced practice
 - Gain insight into and be inspired by acute care career pathways
- **UK Critical Care Nursing Alliance (UKCCNA):** The RCN is a member organisation of the UKCCNA. It provides a structured mechanism to facilitate collaborative working with all nationally recognised critical care nursing organisations across the United Kingdom. The aim of the UKCCNA is to be proactive and visionary about service requirements, providing quality assurance, enhancing the service, quality of care, patient experience and outcomes in critical care. We meet quarterly to share ideas and projects.
 - **Unlocking Job evaluation system:** We held series of webinar to promote RCN [Job evaluation scheme](#) to critical care nurses particularly those who have completed post reg ICU course with significant clinical experience and still working as Band 5 due to lack of Band 6 positions in the units. The webinar was opened by RCN President Bejoy Sebastian provided insight into the process and
 - **Timely, Tailored, Trusted: Person-centred Approaches to Time critical medication webinar:** This was a focused and practical webinar in collaboration with other RCN forums and exploring the complexities of time-critical medication management across four key conditions: Diabetes, Epilepsy, Parkinson's, and Sepsis. It provided actionable strategies to improve the timeliness of medication administration, deepen the understanding of time-critical medications, and promote a person-centred approach that prioritises safety and dignity. The Forum Chair Ciara Collins presented on the importance of timely administration of antimicrobial for sepsis.
 - **Guidance on Provision of Intensive Care Services (GPICS 3.0):** As a stakeholder, the RCN via the RCN critical care and flight nursing forum have participated in a consultation of the document and contributed to the development of the document.

RCN Representations:

The Forum together with the RCN Professional Lead for Critical Care (Suman Shrestha) engage in various external forums such as FICM Critical Care Leadership Forum, NHSE National Quality Board Safe Staffing Standards and Intensive Care Society.

Plans for 2026:

- **Definition of critical care nursing:** The forum is working on the definition of critical care nursing. This will be an academic piece of work which will provide updated definition.
- [RCN Flight Nursing Conference](#) is themed '[Across Borders: Flight Nursing in an Unpredictable World](#)' is scheduled for the 7th March 2026 at RCN London HQ. This is an annual flight nursing conference.
- **RCN Acute Care Symposium 2026** is being planned for July 2026.
- **E-learning resource for critical care nurses:** The forum has been working on developing e-learning platform under RCN Learn with aim to complete in 2026.
- **Flight Networking meeting with industry leaders:** We will continue to engage with the flight nursing industry leaders by hosting this network to promote and develop flight nursing as a specialty.

Written by Suman Shrestha (RCN Professional Lead for Critical Care) on behalf of the RCN Critical Care and Flight Nursing Forum

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