

RCN Forum Annual Report 2022

Forum Name:

RCN Critical Care and Flight Nursing Forum

Introduction:

The Forum provides professional representation for critical care and flight nurses within the medical assistance and aviation industry. One of the aims of the Forum is to develop standards and to promote the work of the specialty.

The Forum aims to share best practice by organising study events such as the annual Flight Nursing study day. 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
- Providing clear leadership and direction within each speciality
- Promoting education and professional development for our nursing community
- Developing standards and guidelines to evidence best practice
- Actively engaging with forum members
- Ensuring development and growth of the forum

Membership of the forum

Brief summary on the forum membership, to include:

- 10,979 member as per webpage
- This has increased by 2179 members since last report (19% increase)
- Committee membership:
- The end of this year our Chair and Deputy Chair step down, we asked one steer co member to step down due to lack of engagement.
- To fill vacancies this year we had 8 applicants for 4 places.
- We hired 4 new committee members on 4 years terms.
- We also have 4 active Forum Ambassador roles to support both critical care and flight.
- All new steer co members are on board and we held a strategy day in December 2022 for engagement. A new Chair has been elected who will start in January 2023.

Reflections on 2022: (Outputs and outcomes)

➤ What the forum planned to deliver:

FGG Bids:

We submitted 3 bids which were all successful but were put on hold due to the strike:

1. Critical care study day: Full day, face to face. To be held collaboratively with an acute care focus with other forums such as: ECA, Defence, Peri op, Trauma and ortho. We are looking at a new date with the events team in June 2023

2. Flight nurse study day: Full day face to face. Using interactive simulation and 2 layers to cater for new nurses to the flight industry and the more experienced nurses. This is agreed with Events to go ahead in January 2024.
3. Flight Nurse Medical Transportation Competency framework – bid approved and is being worked through for publication in early 2023. This was an extensive peer review and development of a framework managed by the steer co members for flight using leading senior nurses from across the UK to develop and publish.

Congress:

In attendance was the Chair and Deputy Chair who supported the Forum World Café.

The Chair of the forum- Kerry McGowran was also recognised with an RCN Award of Merit for voluntary services.

Projects that were delivered and have closed

National Flight Nurse Network meetings:

We continued to hold, quarterly National Flight Nurse Network meetings where we invite senior nursing leaders from 4 countries to attend a in person or TCON meeting to discuss industry change, nursing matters and promote sharing of best practice.

Critical care Network meetings:

We started a trial of successful network meetings to showcase how the RCN supports members in critical care, to hear from members what is working well and also where they need our support. We plan to keep this momentum in the new year.

Task and Finish Forum review project:

The Forum Chair was involved in the Task and finish panel to support how we evolve forums to showcase their work for the RCN.

Flight nurse Clinical governance survey:

We conducted a national survey of nurses working in flight and medical assistance to understand what are the needs from a policy and professional practice point of view so we can develop and support accordingly. Due to be released early in 2023.

Forum ambassador roles:

We continued to promote and identify “Forum Ambassadors” into our steer co to support critical lines of work.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/Get-Involved/Forums/Critical-Care-and-Flight-Nursing-Forum/RCN-Critical-Care-and-Flight-Nursing-Forum-ambassadors>

Webinars:

We continue to encourage members to contribute to education by promoting and sharing webinars.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/Get-Involved/Forums/Critical-Care-and-Flight-Nursing-Forum/Flight-nursing-webinars>

Blogs:

We continue to encourage members to contribute to education by promoting and sharing blogs to share experience.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/Get-Involved/Forums/Critical-Care-and-Flight-Nursing-Forum/Blog>

Contribution to Aeromedical transfers meeting with the Intensive care society:

The Chair was involved in assessing the needs for a set of standards for medical retrievals in the UK.

- Main highlights of the year for the forum
It has been a challenging time coming out of the pandemic so we are proud to have maintained a consistent and active presence for our members in both flight and critical care which can be seen by our rise in membership.
- What was the impact of the achievements and activities reported?
We have seen a rise in our member numbers and had much more engagement with our members via MCC, social media and email.
- Impact of forum work for the RCN membership (4-country perspective)
We always aim to include representation and inclusion of nurses from across the 4 countries in all engagements. For example for the critical care outreach we had members from the 4 countries involved on each session.
- Communication with committee members and wider membership – Social media interactions – twitter chats etc. Indicate any changes or developments in the way that communications take place and what has been the impact
 1. Social media – supported other forums with sessions on how to deliver membership engagement (Chars meeting, E health, Management and leadership forum etc)
 2. Delivered quarterly (minimum) MCC emails to members ot keep updated on our progress and promote engagement
 3. Developed a dedicated email address
 4. Twitter – increased to
 5. Facebook – increased membership to 3.2K
- Highlight any changes or different ways of working that has been implemented this year
There has been much more collaboration between the Forum Chair groups which has been excellent to support each other, look for ideas, share best practice and have better communications from the RCN to understand the agenda and direction of travel.
- Publications (include link if possible)
- Any other relevant information

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