

RCN Forum Annual Report 2023

Forum Name:

Diabetes Forum

Introduction:

Representing RCN members working in the field of diabetes nursing, we lead the development of diabetes nursing practice, promoting the nature, scope, and value of diabetes nursing to both specialist and non-specialist nurses. We work to influence changes in practice and guidance, to benefit patients and nurses.

The ongoing legacy of the pandemic continues to exacerbate and highlight inequalities for people living with diabetes. In addition, incidence of diabetes continues to increase across the population in the UK, impacting quality of life due to complications of diabetes and cost to the NHS, so our work today and moving forward continues to carry great importance.

Membership of the forum

Forum membership:

- Total number (all) - 7163
- Total number (first choice) - 2960

Trends

- Overall forum membership has increased,- in 2022; this time last year membership figures were (all) 7082.
- First choice membership has also increased from 2910 in 2022.

Social Media

- 428 members following on our Facebook Group
- Twitter (switched to a new account)

Committee membership – vacancies, number of applications this year

- Charlotte Gordon stepped down as Chair in August 2023; Huge thanks to Charlotte for her dedicated service.
- 1 member stepped down in August 2023
- 2 members – End of Term (2023)
- Current number of members in committee - 2
- The Committee received 5 applications for 5 vacancies, 5 of which are eligible.
- Number of applicants 3 appointed.

Update on Chair of forum

There is currently no chair for this forum, since Charlotte Gordon stepped down in August

Reflections on 2023: (Outputs and outcomes)

- 2 online resources are available to support nurses in their clinical practice and provide an opportunity to work with Diabetes UK.
- Raised profile of the RCN with an RCN magazine publication to support nurses working with Diabetes patients.
- Collaboration with The Royal College of Podiatry to provide expertise for their foot health publication.
- Raised the profile of RCN by representing the Forum at the Best Practice for Diabetes national networking event.
- Diabetes tech blog to educate and support our members in their practice.
- Would we add Congress attendance= many members coming to the “Meet the Diabetes stand”.
- Delivering on Diabetes tech – a new era for diabetes care at Congress

Review of Strategic Objectives & Forum Work (2022/23)

- Injectables resource updated to 4th edition.
 - Diabetes essentials updated (online resource) based on user feedback.
 - Diabetes essentials endorsement by Diabetes UK
 - Injectables resource incorporated into WebMD and Medscape guidelines.
 - Paula Johnson article for RCN magazine
<https://www.rcn.org.uk/magazines/Clinical/2023/June/Diabetes-essentials-for-non-specialist-nurses>
 - Endorsement of National diabetes foot leaflets by Royal college of podiatry and Diabetes UK
 - Participation in RCN forum email trial
 - CG represented and presented at the SBK Diabetes National Networking forum event: Best practice approaches for using apps and digital interventions to prevent type 2.
 - Michelle Turner – representation at House of Commons inequalities event.
 - Blogs – Sarah Orm on Diabetes tech (July 23) <https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/Blogs/cgm-whos-job-is-it-anyway>
 - Accepted for Congress Fringe event presented at Brighton: Diabetes tech – a new era for diabetes care
 - Continued collaboration with Diabetes UK
 - Michelle Turner represented at DUK Oral Health Shaping Policy event.
- 3 voting places utilised for Congress 2023

Plans for 2024:

We are holding our Strategy Day on 15th February 2024 when we be developing our plans for the year ahead, this will include:

- Seeking that the RCN sign up for the “End diabetes stigma and discrimination” campaign as an organisation.

- Seeking RCN members sign up for the “End diabetes stigma and discrimination” campaign as individuals.
- Increase membership by 25%
- Increase forum members to full capacity and include Paediatric nurses, and GPN, DN or LD nurses so the forum reflects the areas where diabetes care takes place.
- Looking to survey RCN nurses and HCSW to find out the challenges they face with caring for people with diabetes.
- Scoping to see how we can help to meet these needs.
- Explore Peer to peer support for PWD between members with diabetes.
- Explore diabetes prevention for our members.

Date Prepared and By: Michelle Turner

Date: November 2023