

Gastrointestinal RCN Forum Annual Report - 2025

Forum Name & Introduction:

Gastrointestinal Forum - The forum membership consists of members who are involved in all aspects of gastrointestinal care, including upper and lower GI surgery, gastroenterology, Colorectal cancer, endoscopy, nutrition, liver care, IBD, functional and benign specialties, from wards to Specialist Nurse roles, in adult and children's nursing. There are members in the pharmaceutical industry, independent and private healthcare, working in education, clinical research, charitable organisations in addition to the NHS. Gastrointestinal Nursing is a diverse and wide-reaching specialty and so the forum membership reflects this – there is a complexity of GI/ Gastroenterology sub-specialties and subsequently the nursing role is varied, extensive and provides huge opportunity for career development.

Membership of the forum:

Chair: Rebekah Hill

Steering Committee Members: Lisa Gower, Pearl Avery, Claire Coughlan, Julie Duncan, Amanda Cetroni and Lisa Whitley

There are no vacancies on the Committee.

First Name	Last Name	Description	Position	Join Date	Start term of office	End of term of office
Claire	Coughlan	Gastrointestinal Nursing Forum	Committee Member	01/01/2021	01/01/2021	31/12/2028
Lisa	Gower	Gastrointestinal Nursing Forum	Committee Member	01/01/2024	01/01/2024	31/12/2027
Pearl	Avery	Gastrointestinal Nursing Forum	Committee Member	01/01/2024	01/01/2024	31/12/2027
Julie	Duncan	Gastrointestinal Nursing Forum	Committee Member	01/01/2021	01/01/2021	31/12/2028
Amanda	Cetroni	Gastrointestinal Nursing Forum	Committee Member	01/01/2024	01/01/2024	31/12/2027
Lisa	Whitley	Gastrointestinal Nursing Forum	Committee Member	01/01/2023	01/01/2023	31/12/2026
Rebekah	Hill	Gastrointestinal Nursing Forum	Forum Chair	01/01/2024	01/01/2024	31/12/2027

Social Media presence:

Facebook membership – **1.600** members

Membership data:

	Current count	Current first choice	Count 12 months ago	First choice 12 months ago	Difference in count	Difference in first choice
Gastrointestinal Forum	4,272	2,625	4,148	2,651	124	-26

Membership data reflects a growing trend of members, which is encouraging. The forum will continue to build and develop membership in 2026 and will encourage new members to identify the forum as their first choice.

Reflections on 2025 (outputs and outcomes):

6 weekly meetings for one hour online – our listen, learn and lead strategy has been enacted with committee members.

All Committee members have contributed to:

Monthly blogs

Monthly publications in Gastrointestinal Nursing publications

Peer Reviews for GIN - Gastrointestinal Nursing

Conferences and achievements of note are:

- Bekah has disseminated the Liver Competency Framework at the Gastrointestinal Nursing Conference January 2025, and, via the working group, at BASL October 2025 Belfast. Bekah has completed an interview article with the Nursing Standard on Upper GI bleeds nursing and enjoyed a year of leading an amazing group of dedicated nurses working in the specialist of gastroenterology.
- Claire has presented her PhD findings on the priorities for follow up of CRC survivors from minority ethnic groups at the GIN conference 2025 as well as keeping busy promoting Colonic Cancer care and service delivery. Claire has led the publication of Professional development framework for CRC CNSs accredited by the RCN as well as achieving publication of systematic literature review on follow up priorities of CRC patients in GI Nursing. Claire has also worked on a collaboration with ASCN on stoma care standards regarding a joint framework supported by the RCN (the professional leads are involved)
- Julie, RCN Framework for Professional Practice in IBD, along with evaluation data was presented at European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation (ECCO) by Wladzia Czuber-Dochan (member of the project working party). Julie and Sally have worked with paediatric IBD CNS to develop practice competencies for paediatric nurses working with patients with IBD. Work is close to completion.
- Pearl has been to Congress; actively increased posting activity on social media, which has had an impact on the number of people asking to join the GI forum on Facebook; joined the NECCO committee, which strengthened nursing collaboration internationally;

actively worked with the UK IBD Nurse Research Network, with the first study in analysis and another in progress, has been the Crohn's & Colitis Lead for IBD nursing since April, which, in this role, is setting workforce standards for IBD nursing. Pearl is doing her PhD and presented on November the 5th at Nursing Live RCNi on lower GI pathway. Blogs also completed for RCN and GIN.

- Lisa has completed her study of 'A ten-year audit of an inflammatory bowel disease nursing service' and is publishing this in Gastrointestinal Nursing
- Lisa Gower has worked to complete Blogs and articles as well as represent the forum at conference. Lisa continues to work in palliative care, specialising in ways to improve palliative care referrals for patients with end stage liver disease. Lisa has also applied for a research Internship.
- Amanda has published 2 articles in GIN this year and continue to be an active peer reviewer. As part of her rotation, has contributed to the RCN Blog, was invited to join the BSG Nursing Group, and we've had 2 meetings so far in 2025 and have collaborated with Kathy Whayman on her project with students and also conducted a focus group.
- We have completed and published the 4th Edition of the Liver Competencies Framework, following a successful FGG bid. The working group consisted of four nation representation and all liver nursing specialities, who met online to achieve an update and rewrite of the competency framework. This was a significant re-write of the 3rd edition and will further enhance the career development and complex work of liver nurses.
- We have worked with and supported a successful FGG bid by a group of paediatric gastro CNS to develop Paediatric Gastro IBD competencies.
- We have published the IBD framework for professional practice in January 2024 and have worked to evaluate the impact of the IBD framework.
- Congress was attended by 1 forum member, Grace Abene, and two committee members Pearl and Lisa G.
- Factors that have helped our progress: Leadership from the chair, a positive and supportive team dynamic amongst the committee members Shirley Foster (Project Co Ordinator) and Sally Wilson (Professional Lead).
- Factors that have hindered our progress: NHS time pressures preventing members dedicating time to their development and needs.

RCN Representations:

We continue to work closely with a range of organisations to advance developments in gastrointestinal nursing. We Listen, Learn and Lead through our collaborations with (each committee member has a link with one organisation):

- IBD association
- Crohn's and Colitis
- Colorectal cancer
- British Liver Nurses Association

- ACPGBI
- NNNG
- CCN
- Gastrointestinal Nursing Journal- Editorial Board and Peer Reviewers
- IBD UK standards group

Plans for 2026:

Listen, Learn and Lead by:

Project	Member	Time frame	Evaluate by
Evaluate the social media strategy	Julie and Pearl	December 2025	Increased membership
Completed the 4 th Edition of Liver Competencies - 4 nation representation and all national support groups	Bekah	December 2025	4th Edition of Liver Competency publication
Association of Stoma Nurse collaboration – best practice pathway	Claire	September 2025	Publication of best practice document
GIN collaboration to continue with monthly journal publications by committee members *Dual publication with RCN Blog	Jan 26 – Pearl Feb 26- Bekah	December 2026	Monthly publications authored by all team members
Paediatric Gastro IBD Competencies completion	Julie	December 25	Publication of CYP IBD competencies
Disseminate and evaluate IBD framework	Julie	December 25	Evaluation data publication
Seek recognition of a IBD CNS now retired – contribution to nursing award	Pearl	December 25	Award to be shared
Monthly RCN Blogs *Dual publication with GIN article	Jan 26 – Pearl Feb 26- Bekah	December 2026	Monthly blog publication

Report prepared BH 19/11/25