

## RCN Forum Annual Report 2025

**Forum Name:** Urgent and Emergency Care Forum

### **Introduction**

We represent members who work in urgent and emergency care (UEC) by collaborating with other forums and professional organisations. Our priorities are to assist staff within UEC in providing safe, effective, quality care and work to support their health and wellbeing. We focus on best practice and innovations in care identifying areas for development through joint working and shared learning.

### **Forum membership**

RCN Membership:	8721
1 <sup>st</sup> Choice:	5545
Facebook:	1500

### **Steering Committee**

The steering committee has recruited one new member and reappointed another to start in 2026 as part of the scheduled renewal of membership. It has also elected a new vice chair, Natalie Stringer. The steering committee members are from wide range of UEC nursing backgrounds including prehospital, academia, clinical and management. Working closely with the Professional Lead, it seeks to expand the expertise within the forum working with subject matter experts as forum project leads and has had a very positive response using this model when peer reviewing the updated competencies.

### **Reflections on 2025 overall**

This year has been an exceptionally busy period for the Urgent and Emergency Care Forum. We have worked hard to represent the voice of nurses working in UEC at key external bodies, including NHS England and the Royal College of Emergency Medicine. Through these engagements, we have ensured that nursing perspectives are central to discussions shaping policy and practice. However, we recognise the need to strengthen our member-facing activity—particularly in keeping members informed about this work and providing opportunities for continuing professional development. Addressing this will be a focus for the forum in the coming year.

### **Projects completed/ongoing**

**Name change.** The forum changed its name from the Emergency Care Forum to the Urgent and Emergency Care Forum to learn from and be more inclusive of members working in areas adjacent to emergency care and conform to vernacular widely used elsewhere in healthcare. More info can be found at the blog here: [Expanding our reach Introducing the urgent and emergency care forum](#)

**ED Nursing Competencies.** The forum has worked hard on the long-awaited rewrite of the Emergency Nursing Competencies [Level 1](#) and [Level 2](#). This is now

complete and will be published in spring 2026. Sarah Cato leads this whole committee effort.

**Workforce Standards for Type 1 Emergency Departments.** The forum are near completion of the [Nursing Workforce Standards for Type 1 Emergency Departments](#). This will be a joint publication with RCEM. Sarah Cato and Rachel Bird lead this work.

**Acute Care Symposium 25.** The UEC Forum is one of four forums to deliver the RCN Acute Care Symposium. Rachel Bird leads this work;.

**RCNi Emergency Nurse Editorials.** Various steering committee members write articles and editorials for Emergency Nurse. This work is headed up by Matthew Osborne.

**Accountability of patients waiting in ambulances work.** After a Congress resolution on this issue, Natalie Stringer has sat on the working group of members and staff who are progress the work.

### **Forums / boards / regular meetings**

The forum represents the voice of UEC nurses at several significant external boards and working groups, including:

**Faculty Emergency Nursing (FEN) Board.** FEN provide education to nurses working in emergency care settings. Sara Morgan is the forum link with the FEN team.

**Institute of Addressing Strangulation (IFAS).** The Institute aims to raise awareness of strangulation and the associated risks, conduct research, develop resources, and to train professionals in responding to and supporting victims/survivors of these assaults. They have published clinical guidelines for adults and are not working on a paediatric version. Phil Hill leads this work.

**Joint Royal Colleges Ambulance Liaison Committee (JRCALC).** JRCALC produce clinical guidelines for UK NHS paramedics, on behalf of the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives (AACE). Phil Hill sits on the board.

**NHSE Acuity Board.** The Acuity Project seeks to standardise the way we measure acuity at initial assessment. The project is currently running across 22 pilot sites. Sarah Cato and Debbie de Labauve d'Arifat lead this work.

**NHSE Never Event Framework Review.** NHSE ran a consultation on the Never Events Framework in 2024. Now conducting a review with SME input. Phil Hill sits on the board.

**NHSE Pathways National Clinical Advisory Group (NCAG).** NHS Pathways triage system is a clinical decision support system which supports the assessment of UEC services such as 111 and 999. Phil Hill sits on the NCAG.

**Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM) ACP Credentialing Sub-Committee.** The Committee reviews and maintains the Curriculum for Emergency Care Advanced Clinical Practitioners (ECACP), reporting to the Education Committee and liaising closely with the Curriculum Sub-Committee and the Training Standards Committee. Sara Morgan advises the RCN PL who sits on this committee.

**RCEM Clinical Leadership and Service Design (CLSD) Committee.** The Committee coordinates all service design and delivery policy on behalf of the RCEM including current key issues around service delivery, system integration and service reconfiguration, commissioning and funding EDs, delivering quality in the ED, workforce including sustainable working, and ED crowding. Natalie Stringer sits on this committee and is delivering a presentation on Nursing Roles and Shared Leadership at a Leadership Study Day in Dec 25 delivered by the CLSD Committee.

### **Congress 2025**

We attended with 6 voting members. We supported the World Café and represented the forum on the forum stand. Forum Steering Committee Member, Natalie Stringer, seconded the [Resolution: Accountability for patients in ambulances](#).

### **Contribution to consultations**

- GIRFT Best practice guideline: a child at home on long term non-invasive ventilation who may require admission to hospital.
- RCPCH Facing the Future: Standards for children and young people in emergency care settings.
- NICE draft guideline consultation Suspected sepsis: recognition, diagnosis and early management.
- Heart Failure Nurse Competency Framework

### **Plans for 2026**

- We will hold our strategy day in Feb 2026.
- We will publish the Emergency Nursing Competencies Level 1 and Level 2.
- WE will write and publish Emergency Nursing Competencies Level 3.
- We will publish the Nursing Workforce Standards for Type 1 EDs in Q1.
- We will provide member facing CPD events on key topics like Information Sharing to Tackle Violence.
- We will continue to represent the voice of UEC nurses within and external to the College.

For further information on ECF please visit our website: <https://www.rcn.org.uk/Get-Involved/Forums/Emergency-Care-Forum>

**Sarah Cato, Forum Chair**  
**Kendal Andreason, Professional Lead**  
**22/11/25**