

RCN Forum Annual Report 2023

Forum Name: Women's Health

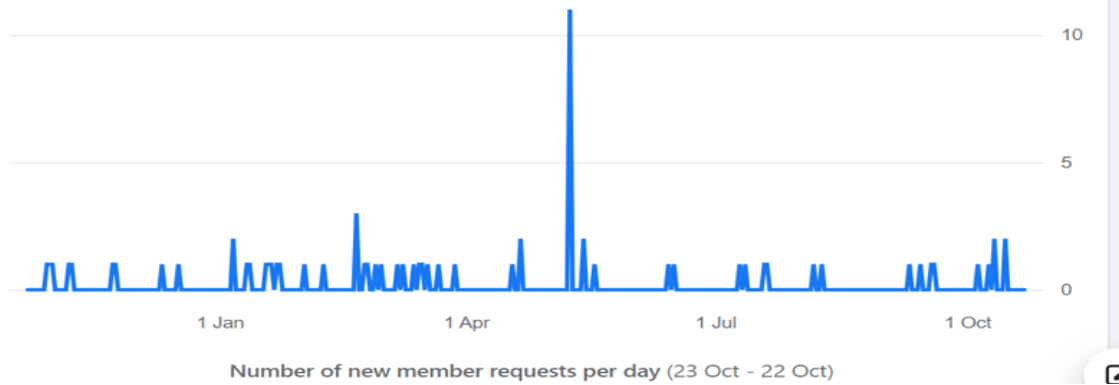
Introduction:

The Women's Health (WH) forum covers a wide range of conditions and complements the work of other forums enabling plenty of opportunities for collaborative work. We aim to provide women's health nursing expertise to the RCN and help shape national policy. All forum activities align with the RCN strategy, including working across the UK, taking account of the particular requirements in each of the devolved countries.

Membership of the forum

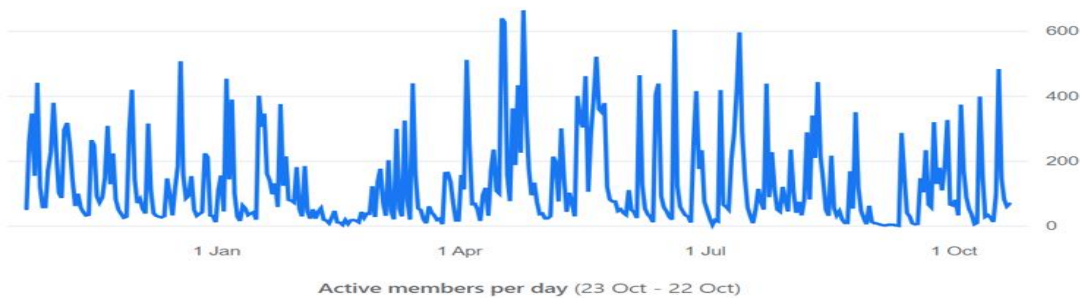
Total forum number: 5728 an increase of 107 members in the last 12 months

70 membership requests ⓘ
23 Oct 2022 - 22 Oct 2023



Social media engagement has also increased, we now have 1,711 Twitter followers which is an increase of 195 from 2022. The Facebook page now has 1311 members (from 1,216 members last year) of whom 970 have actively engaged with the group during the year.

884 active members ⓘ
23 Oct 2022 - 22 Oct 2023



Emma Ayling
Victoria (Tori) Heppell

Our previous Chair, Katharine Gale, left the forum in June 2023 and two forum members will be taking maternity leave for a year from December 2023. The forum has recently completed recruitment for 2024. Charlotte Deakin and Micheal Nevill have both been reappointed to serve a 4-year term of office; Esther Kuria has been appointed to serve a 4-year term of office and Cyzel Gomes has been appointed to cover one year of maternity leave.

The Forum continues to benefit from the support and expertise of RCN Fellows Debra Holloway and Wendy Norton, who both undertake a significant amount of work on behalf of the forum.

Supporting the Forum:

Carmel Bagness, Professional Lead for Midwifery and Women's Health
Vitina Marsala, Project co-ordinator.

Achievements in 2023: (Outputs and outcomes)

- In April 23 the forum published updated guidance on menopause for members available at: [Menopause guidance | Royal College of Nursing \(rcn.org.uk\)](https://www.rcn.org.uk/Professional-Development/publications/womens-health-pocket-guide-uk-pub-010-89.8)
- In August 23 the forum published an updated second edition of the highly popular "Women's Health pocket guide 1-3" now available on the members website. <https://www.rcn.org.uk/Professional-Development/publications/womens-health-pocket-guide-uk-pub-010-89.8>
- The forum completed a comprehensive review and update of the Women's Health Clinical Topics. Available for members [Women's Health: Subject Guide | Library | Royal College of Nursing \(rcn.org.uk\)](https://www.rcn.org.uk/Professional-Development/publications/womens-health-pocket-guide-uk-pub-010-89.8)
- Guidance on Genital examination has been updated and is due for publication by the end of November 2023.
- The forum has completed updating the guidance on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and its supporting documents FGM in Travel Medicine and FGM in Sexual Health. These documents are due to be published by the end of the year.
- Guidance on Human papillomavirus (HPV), cervical screening and cervical cancer and has also been updated and is due to be published before the end of the year.
- The forum has completed a comprehensive review of RCN guidance on Termination of pregnancy and guidance has been expanded reflect current changes in legislation, changing roles within the workforce and to include a greater emphasis on principles of nursing care. This is currently in press and due to be published early 2024.
- The forum has produced new guidance on the role of the Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Gynaecology which is ready for publication and launch in January 2024.
- The Forum has also led the development of the RCN Position Statement on Menopause due to be published by the end of 2023 and will be launched through an interactive webinar scheduled for November 28th 2023.

Current Projects in Progress

- Developing Sexual and Reproductive Health Competencies for Nurses working with women in Custody.
- Developing clinical pages on inclusion and diversity.
- Women's Mental Health and Trauma informed care.

Raising awareness of the Women's Health Forum

RCN Congress 2023

- The forum was represented at Congress 2023 in Brighton by 3 voting members and 1 branch voting member.
- All committee members spoke at the podium, staffed the forum stand, two members supported the form world café event, and two members supported a wellbeing and learning event focused on reproductive health.
- All committee members attended Regional receptions.

Online Webinar and Seminars

- The Forum hosted and presented a successful and well attended webinar on “Women’s Health across the Life course” June 2023.
- 2 Committee members presented at the RCNi Wales Menopause Seminar May 2023.
- 2 Committee members presented on Menopause and Long Covid Queen’s Nurse Institute Webinar September 2023.

Conferences

- RCN Fellow represented RCN at endometriosis world Congress 2023
- Annual WHF Conference scheduled on take place face to face at RCN HQ on Dec 6th 2023.

Branch Events

- Presentations delivered at RCN Essex branch on Stigma around women’s health
- 2 Sessions delivered on Menopause in the Workplace for Demelza Hospice and Bowes Nursing Home in East Sussex.
- Local learning events in September 2023 on menopause for RCN Birmingham East North and Solihull Branch and Local Learning Event and Birmingham west and Sandwell.

Articles in Nursing Press:

- “Working on RCN Forum can enrich your career” RCN Blog Ruth Bailey
- “Let’s Talk about sex: Why STI’s are at a record high” RCN Bulletin Sept 2023

Representations, Contribution to Consultations & Policy development

- Contributed to National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and death (NCEPOD) endometriosis study.
- Active contribution to NHSE Perinatal Pelvic Health Services (PPHS) Training and Learning Task and Finish group, from Project Manager, Maternity Transformation Programme.
- Contribution to developing British Society Abortion Care Providers (BSACP) best practice guideline; “Liaison with the Police and external agencies following abortion, pregnancy loss and unexpected delivery”.
- Presentation at RCN Joint Safety Reps Conference October 23 to discuss menopause as part of panel discussion.
- Ongoing Contribution to the NHSE Menopause clinical reference group monthly meetings.
- Ongoing engagement in the RCN Forum Chair Committee meetings.

Stakeholder meetings

- Perinatal Pelvic Health Services (PPHS) Training and Learning Task and Finish group, from Project Manager, Maternity Transformation Programme, NHS England.
- Active participation in NHS England Improvement - Menopause programme clinical reference group.
- Active participation in FSRH Hatfield Vision Taskforce
- Contributed to Shaping Abortion for Change (SACHA) project, largest research project into abortion care in the UK.
- Contributed to Hologic event and pathway planning on Heavy Menstrual Bleeding.

Active representation at

- Royal College of General Practitioners
- Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (RCOG) Abortion taskforce
- British Society Abortion Care Providers Decriminalisation
- Faculty of Sexual Health & Reproductive Health

Contribution to All Party-Parliamentary Groups

- Menopause
- Menstrual Health Coalition
- Women's Health Cross Party Group for Wales
- Sexual and Reproductive health

Awards

- “Forum Steering Committee member of the year” awarded to Ruth Bailey
- “Forum Member of the year” Highly commended Ellie Stewart

Project Plans for 2024

- Completion of the current projects listed above.
- Launch of newly updated Termination of Pregnancy Guidance.
- Publication of RCN Menopause Position statement.
- Begin new project on Guidance for improving access to cervical screening for Women with physical disability.
- Submission of agenda items and wellbeing and learning event for Congress 2024
- 3 Women's Health Forum Blogs scheduled for 2024.

Prepared by: Ruth Bailey

Date 7th November 2023