

Royal College of Nursing response to Emergency Care and Treatment Plans Consultation

With a membership of around 430,000 registered nurses, midwives, health visitors, nursing students, health care assistants and nurse cadets, the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is the voice of nursing across the UK and the largest professional union of nursing staff in the world. RCN members work in a variety of hospital and community settings in the NHS and the independent sector. The RCN promotes patient and nursing interests on a wide range of issues by working closely with the Government, the UK parliaments and other national and European political institutions, trade unions, professional bodies and voluntary organisations.

1. Are you completing this consultation as:

A: A member of a Professional Body

11. Which professional body do you represent?

A: Royal College of Nursing

12. In what capacity do you represent this professional body?

A: Professional Lead Acute, Emergency and Critical Care

13. Do you think a new system of Emergency Care Treatment Plans (ECTPs) is a good idea?

A: I strongly agree that it is a good idea

ETCP document instructions

15. Please insert your comments on this section and your suggestions for improvement below.

A: Space for the hospital number to go into should be bigger. A sticker with the patient's details could be placed over here; if this is not acceptable this should be made clear in the guidance. If handwritten, this space is unlikely to be big enough for most people's handwriting.

20. Box 8 requires the clinician completing the form to confirm that decisions have been made according to the law on capacity. It is also the place to record who the decisions have been made

with (the individual, their representative or the person holding parental responsibility/court order in the case of a child), and when and who was present when the decisions were discussed. There is not room to record full details of the discussion on the ECTP itself, but it is essential that they are documented fully elsewhere, and that details of where those records can be found are recorded on the ECTP in this box. The dates of later conversations about the ECTP and of where they have been documented can also be recorded in Box 8.

Please insert your comments on box 8 and your suggestions for improvement below

A: Under the text “The clinician signing this ECTP is confirming that these decisions” does there need to be an indication/wording on the form to cross out incorrect sentences?

A: In relation to people who are important to the patient, who may want to be included in the discussion and know about the decisions, there needs to be a space to document their name and relationship here. Need to add to this text “have been discussed with and agreed with the individual” “and with people identified as being important to them” (or words to that effect)

24. Please make suggestions for people who should be added to or removed from the list of contacts in an emergency situation and briefly explain why.

A: Where it states “family/friend” it may be useful to bracket (specify) so if a healthcare professional has to call a relative/friend they know the exact relationship (husband, aunt etc)

25. Having worked through the ECTP, what things do you like about the approach?

A: Short – 2 sides of A4 – which will encourage uptake. I particularly approve of the striped edge so it can be clearly identified if not at the front of notes. I am assuming that, as with any advanced decisions, this will be available to all relevant professionals so unwanted hospital admission or intervention is not attempted

28. Overall how satisfied are you with the ECTP document?

A: Very satisfied

Explaining the Emergency Care and Treatment Plan

29. Please make any suggestions for improvements below in the relevant box.

A: Box 4: Capitalise ONE in the explanation of

32. If you think there is anything missing from this leaflet that would help a patient, their family, other carers or members of the public understand better the ECTP and the process of using it please briefly explain what and make suggestions for improvement.

A: For all the information leaflets, there is mention of making them available in other formats at a later date. An easy read version will be vital, not only to assist those who lack capacity but for people with other impairments. Useful link to Learning Disability related resources <http://www.pcpld.org/links-and-resources/#professionals> and the Mencap produced ‘End of life Care: best practice guide (easy read)’ <https://www.mencap.org.uk/node/6026#node-6026>

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ETCP: Information for patients, families of patients

36. Who makes the decisions and completes an ECTP?

A: This sentence may be too complex "If, after careful assessment, your healthcare team finds that you don't have the mental capacity to make the decisions that are needed for an ECTP, they must make decisions that are in your best interests." Consider using something other than 'mental capacity' and then putting mental capacity in brackets afterwards e.g. you aren't able to understand or make decisions about your health

46. Will the ECTP affect my care?

A: This sentence is complex "Decisions that are recorded about your future care will affect that only in the way that that has been requested, and will not change any other care or treatment that you may need." Consider re-wording

58. If you don't have any comments to make on the information leaflet for parents, please select the button below to go straight to the section on the next document, "Information for young people."

A: I don't have any comments to make on the information leaflet for parents

ETCP: Information for parents

66. What types of care and treatment will be considered and recorded?

A: "Clinicians often describe such a form as "like having the child's doctor there with them telling them what is unique about your child"". Put this sentence before "It cannot be used to request or demand treatments that would not be beneficial to your child" as this would improve the flow of the paragraph and reduce ambiguity of which form.

ETCP: Information for young people.

85. If you don't have any comments to make on the information for young people, please select the button below to go to the section on the final document, "How to Complete The ECTP: Quick Guide for Clinicians."

A: I don't have any comments to make on the information leaflet for young people

How to Complete an ECTP

111. The guidance document "How to complete an ECTP" is designed to be used with the ECTP to ensure that it is completed correctly and consistently by all the different health professionals who will complete it in different settings. Please let us know if there is anything that is missing, unclear or doesn't flow well in the guidance. Please insert your comments in the box that matches the sections numbered 1 to 12 in the "How to complete an ECTP". Please explain briefly what the issue is and make a suggestion as to how it could be improved.

A: Box 5 - The box for the DNACPR does not allow for any ambiguity of circumstance and perhaps this should be made explicit in the guidance in instructions to the clinician discussing with the patient e.g. if I choke on a fishbone I might want to be revived but only in those circumstances

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A: Box 7 – Consider including safeguarding e.g. “Safeguarding needs to be taken into consideration for all people but especially in relation to those with learning disabilities” e.g. communication on managing pain, food and hydration, advance decisions.

112. Contact information for notification of feedback

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