

# RCN Forum Annual Report 2024

## Emergency Care Forum (ECF)

### Introduction

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

### Membership

The RCN Emergency Care Forum currently have 8529 members and is the first-choice forum for 5609 members. The committee used all 6 allocated voting places at Congress this year. The ECF Steering Committee is complete and have a new vice chair this year. The steering committee members are from wide range of emergency care nursing backgrounds including prehospital, academia, clinical and management. It seeks to expand the expertise within the forum working with subject matter experts as forum ambassadors and has had a very positive response using this model when peer reviewing the updated competencies

### Reflections of 2024

ECF participation has grown with it being recognised by more forums internal and external to the RCN as a source of expert nursing opinion and direction

The forum has focused on building as a steering committee, gaining understanding and confidence in roles, responsibilities, and networking with other organisations. Monthly committee meetings continue with a standard agenda enabling feedback from all committee members on the various boards they sit on and continuing the momentum in developing and promoting the forum.

A focus throughout the year has been updating the ECF level 1 and 2 competencies to ensure they are meaningful, practical, and valid for our members; ensuring they meet the ever-evolving needs of emergency care nurses. A FGG bid was successful, and publication of the competencies is planned for early 2025. Once completed, the committee plan to develop level 3 competencies and investigate the feasibility of a digital platform.

The steering committee met in March 2024 to develop the forum strategy and agree its vision and mission statement. Key priorities continue to be increasing communication with our forum members, including the use of social media. The Facebook page is now regularly updated by one of the committee members and there are currently 1,400 members on our Facebook group. The X/Twitter account was relaunched and currently has 239 followers; however, this was recently made dormant after the change in RCN policy about the platform. There have been continued issues

with the old X/Twitter account which claims continued association with the RCN. The media team are aware of this account but are outside the control of the committee.

All voting places were allocated and used at congress with forum members joining committee members in at the venue in Wales.

Two of the committee members have made positive links with RCN Wales and we are looking to expand this to NI and Scotland next year.

A committee member was a guest speaker and hosted one of the breakout sessions at Emergency Care Conference in October. They also gave a presentation on the ECF and its roles and responsibilities. The committee was also part of the planning team and delivered a session at the Acute Care Symposium in March.

### **Other forums / boards / regular meetings attended**

- NHS(E) UEC College and Faculty update
- Joint Royal Colleges Ambulance Liaison Committee (JRCALC)
- Faculty Emergency Nursing (FEN) Board
- NHS(E) Acuity Board.
- NHS(E) UEC Safe and Effective Staffing
- NHS(E) Pathways National Clinical Advisory Group (NCAG)
- Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM) ACP Credentialing Sub-Committee
- RCEM Clinical Leadership and Service Design Committee

### **Work which has been completed in 2024**

- Consultation on the New Hospital Builds Programme.
- Kings Fund contribution to Consultations/Policy development.
- Part of SME group brought together by the Institute For Addressing Strangulation (IFAS) writing Guidelines for Clinical Management of Non-Fatal Strangulation which was subsequently endorsed by the RCN.

### **Plans for 2025**

Strategy day will be held early 2024 which will build on the objective set this year and will include:

- Supporting RCN work on congress resolution on corridor care
- Acute Care Symposium – planned June 2025
- Active participation at congress
- Publication of Level 1 and 2 Emergency Nurse Competencies
- Development of level 3 competencies
- Position statement on violence and aggression in emergency care
- Review of emergency care workforce standards (the existing standards were due for review in 2023)
- The NHSE Acuity Pilot launched in 2023 has continued with early adopters now participating- the forum is represented at the boards meeting, as part of the

adopter's feedback group and the nursing working party working on supporting documents and training for nurses involved in the project.

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**  
**22/11/24**