

RCN Neuroscience Forum Annual Report 2024

Introduction:

The RCN Neuroscience Forum seeks to promote best practice in all aspects of neuroscience care across a range of settings from community to critical care environments, including all neurological conditions and disorders. We develop educational and other materials for nurses, health care support workers and allied health professionals to improve the quality of compassionate patient care, influencing changes in neuroscience care that will benefit both patients and nurses. The forum aims to engage members who work within neurosciences to support their activities of practice development.

Membership of the forum: Summary on the forum membership 2024:

Count	Forum (All)
Nov 2024	2941
Nov 2023	2798
Increased by	143

Count	Forum (1 st Choice)
Nov 2024	1549
Nov 2023	1492
Increased by	57

Social Media Numbers

- 544 members on our Facebook Group
- 76 followers on Twitter (due to switching to a new account in 2023, which previously had 1244 followers)

Forum Appointments

- 2 vacant seats on committee
- Increased to 3 as a member stepped down from the forum due to increased workload and competing priorities – Committee suggested she consider staying a member of the steering committee until 31st December?
- 3 applicants shortlisted
- 2 new committee members initially appointed, 1 on reserve list.
- All have now been appointed to fill 3 places.

Reflections on 2024

Representation

- 23 May 2024 - Intercollegiate Stroke Working Party Face to Face meeting – Mark Delabajan
 - Main Points
- Specialist societies members and other stakeholders to confer with their respective groups regarding the NHSE questions about Workforce challenges
- feedback about amendments and updates to the Organisational Audit datasets
- New SSNAP Dataset changes to take effect in July 2024

Melissa Clarke (Link Nurse)

- Melissa Clarke has been representing the Forum on the NHS England Task and Finish Group looking at care pathways for Children and Young People with Cerebral Palsy. Meetings are bi-monthly.

Evaluation of Stroke career framework – (Project Timelines – Oct 24 – End Oct 25) - In progress:

- Advancing Stroke Nursing: Evaluating the RCN's UK Career Framework. A Qualitative evaluation of the effectiveness of the RCN's career framework for stroke nurses.

Update:

- Project scoping meeting with stakeholders completed
- Project plan and schedule completed
- Completed RCN QA process
- FGG approved funding
- Next steps (set 2nd Project meeting) – Complete objectives to commence planning and execution of surveys & interview.

Development of Headache framework – (Project Timelines – Oct 24 – End Oct 26)- In progress:

- A Nursing Career Pathway and Education Framework for the Management of Headache Disorders; aims to develop a comprehensive standardised framework and competency guidelines for headache nurses. Creating a framework to standardise practice for all to use and access. To define levels of practice including competencies in skills and knowledge of headache disorders. A tool that promotes consistent, safe, and evidenced based practice and service development planning.
- Supporting nurses with their professional development and revalidation needs. Supports nurses going through the RCN job evaluation process.
- Enhanced the quality care, improved patient outcomes by providing a structured approach to headache nursing.

Update:

- Project scoping meeting with stakeholders - completed
- Project plan and schedule completed
- Completed RCN QA process
- FGG approved funding
- Next steps (set 2nd Project meeting) – Complete objectives to start/progress professional development of framework

Clinical Pages Update

- Review of Neuromuscular and MS learn resource underway
- The MND resource has been Quality Assured
- Stroke and Parkinsons currently being reviewed

Forum Webinars

26 November - Epilepsies

Forum engagement and sharing of the Neurology Alliance's Epilepsy Navigation Tool. With updates from the RCN Forums, The Epilepsy Specialist Nurse Association, and the International League Against Epilepsy. The RCN's opportunity to hear from epilepsy nurses about what support required from the RCN.

Video and Presentations to be uploaded to the forum webpages.

Update on attendance

- 158 Registered to attend
- 85 Joined the webinar on the day.

2 October - Meningitis Now Webinar -

Follow Up and Aftercare: Lessons learnt from Meningitis Now Webinar; Claire Donovan & Beverley Corbett from Meningitis Now.

Webinar Link - <https://vimeo.com/1020525025/23d7f933b6?share=copy>

PPT - <https://www.rcn.org.uk/-/media/Royal-College-Of-Nursing/Documents/Forums/Neuroscience-Forum/Engagement-follow-up-and-aftercare-Lessons-from-the-Meningitis-Now-report.pdf>

Webinar recorded and uploaded to forum webpages. PPT also uploaded for delegates to use as reflective learning towards revalidation/CPD.

Update - 70 registered – 32 Attended on the day.

Neuropathic Pain podcast <https://www.rcn.org.uk/Get-Involved/Forums/Neuroscience-Forum>
(Further Resources)

Members from the pain and palliative care forum and the neurosciences forum share their experience and knowledge regarding the assessment and management of neuropathic pain across different patient groups.

National Guideline Consultations

On 31 July 2024, NICE has published a new guidance on CYP2C19 genotype testing to guide clopidogrel use after ischaemic stroke or transient ischaemic attack.

Mark Delabajan - A Stroke Nurse Consultant at East Lancashire NHS Trust and forum committee member as part of professional forum work writes a blog with a focus on the recent NICE guideline on CYP2C19, explaining its relevance to stroke practice, particularly in the context of pharmacogenetics.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/Blogs/nice-recommends-cyp2c19-genotype-testing-to-personalise-clopidogrel-use-for-stroke-and-tia>

Blogs

Aug 2024 - Reflections on congress – Jonathan Beebee – Professional Lead

An overview of Congress 2024 what the Neuroscience Forum may do for Congress 2025.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/Blogs/reflections-on-congress-2024>

Aug 2024 - NICE guideline on CYP2C19 and its relevance to stroke practice in the context of pharmacogenetics – Mark Delabajan – Committee Member

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/Blogs/nice-recommends-cyp2c19-genotype-testing-to-personalise-clopidogrel-use-for-stroke-and-tia>

April 2024 – Parkinsons specialist nurses – still crucial – Emma Edwards – Committee Member

As part of forum engagement during Parkinson's awareness month, blog explores the importance of role of the Parkinsons Specialist Nurse (PNS's).

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/Blogs/parkinsons-specialist-nurses-still-crucial-290424>

Mar 24 – Brain Tumour Awareness Blog – Forum Link Nurse

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/Blogs/brain-tumour-awareness-month-blog>

Forum strategy Day

12 December 2024

Plans for 2025

Future forum work:

- Suggested conference for student nurses on careers in Neuroscience Nursing next year. This would fit with our agenda to try and up our student nurse recruitment and fits with NHS England's ambitions to encourage early career nurses to consider neuroscience.
- Forum representation at BANN conference 2025
- Neuroscience education pathway

Congress:

Agenda Item: 'The importance of time critical medication' led by Emma Edwards

Education, Learning and Development Program:

To collaborate with Neurological Alliance on a proposal for a workshop on 'Ageing well with neuro-progressive conditions'

Date Prepared and by:

18.11.2024

Siobhan Jones (Forum Chair) & Jonathan BeeBee (Professional Lead)