

RCN Pain & Palliative Care Forum Annual Report 2024

Introduction:

The pain and palliative care forum is a very active forum that provides expert support and guidance across all areas of pain and palliative care nursing. The forum steering committee are advocates for nurses working across all levels and areas of practice regarding pain and palliative care.

Membership of the forum:

Forum steering committee members are:

Martin Galligan Forum Chair

Karin Cannons

Suzanne Monks

Sandra Campbell

Olajumoke Isaiah

Rachel Desai

Vacant post

This year we had a successful round of recruitment for the vacant position on the forum steering committee. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances one of the newly appointed committee members had to stand down. The overall forum membership has increased from 2023, and we continue to make member engagement our top priority for the coming year.

Year	Total Membership	First Choice
2024	11693	5112
2023	11270	4964
2022	12068	6000
2021	12341	6000

Reflections on 2024 (Outputs and outcomes)

This has been a very busy year for the forum steering committee with members working across a range of projects that aims to support pain and palliative care nursing practice.

Podcasts

This year the forum steering committee members have developed a series of education podcast exploring different topics in pain and palliative care nursing. We have developed the following podcasts that are currently hosted on the forum webpage:

- Introduction to Neuropathic Pain – joint with Neuroscience forum
- Delivering person care in palliative care
- Procedural related pain

We have also run two podcasts in combination with the Nursing standard, this included an introduction to essential pain management framework and nursing role in supporting those with pain. We have three further podcasts in development that will focus on pain management in paediatric population, having difficult conversations and bereavement.

Blogs

We continue to publish a range of blogs on topics relating to pain and palliative care nursing and the work of forum members. This year we published blogs around our activities at RCN congress.

Pain Assessment in Learning Disability Project

Sandra Campbell continues to lead the work that was approved by FGG in 2023. This is a national project that brings together nursing professionals from across the four nations to develop a tool kit around pain assessment in those with learning disabilities. The project is developing as planned and due to be launched at congress 2025.

Getting it right every time- Fundamentals of Nursing care at the end of life

Ola Isaiah has been leading this national project that has engagement from stakeholders from across the four nations. This project is focused on developing a digital resource regarding the fundamentals of palliative and end of life care. This builds on the previous document "Getting it right every time- Fundamentals of Nursing care at the end of life" and aims to expand on this to provide an interactive resource that all nursing staff can access. This work is expected to be completed in 2025.

Assisted Dying

The forum steering committee are actively involved in the wider work of the RCN regarding the assisted dying position statement and guidance documents. Martin Galligan and Sandra Campbell have been working together on updating the "what to do when someone asks about assisted dying" document and representing forum membership at the RCN working groups. It is our hope that the updated guidance document will be released in 2025.

Congress attendance

This year the forum steering committee were extremely busy at congress with a resolution led by Sandra Campbell that was focussed on improving access to controlled drugs at end of life for those in care homes. Sandra continues to work on this resolution as it was passed by congress and has moved on to the next stage of lobbying government. Martin and Rachel run a learning and wellbeing event regarding introduction to pain assessment and management. This was a well-attended and positively reviewed event that has resulted in a joint podcast with the Nursing Standard. The forum also hosted a meet the forum session and attendance at the world café.

UK Career Framework for Pain Nurses

Martin Galligan has been leading the work of this project and this is now due for review. A national survey on the pain CNS role has been undertaken and will inform the next steps of this project. This is anticipated to be completed in 2025.

Forum Conference

The forum will be running their first conference in March 2025 and have been working with the events team in the planning of this. Martin has been leading this project and arranging a range of speakers that cover a variety of topics in pain and palliative care nursing.

Stakeholder / link nurse group

The forum continues to have a very active link nurse and stakeholder group. This group helps to inform the work of the forum and supports the steering committee in the development of projects.

RCN Representations:

- Karin Cannon is our representation with The British Pain Society and will attend their council meetings.
- Martin Galligan is our representative with the Pain Nurse Network and the European Pain Federation Nursing Education Task Force.
- Sandra Campbell is representative with the Daffodil Project and the SIGN guidelines for palliative Care.
- Olajumoke Isaiah representation for the national end of life care audit.

- Rachel Desai Resilience based clinical supervision working group

Plans for 2025:

Our initial plans for 2025 will include:

- Launch Pain assessment in learning disabilities project
- Launch Fundamentals of palliative and end of life care project
- Update UK Career Framework for pain nursing
- Host first conference on 7th March
- Continue to publish educational podcasts
- Continue to publish blogs
- Support RCN work around assisted dying.
- Continue to engage with wider forum membership

Name of Forum Chair and Professional Lead

Martin Galligan Forum Chair

Date Prepared

5.12.24