

RCN Forum Annual Report Rheumatology Forum 2024

Forum Name:

Rheumatology Forum

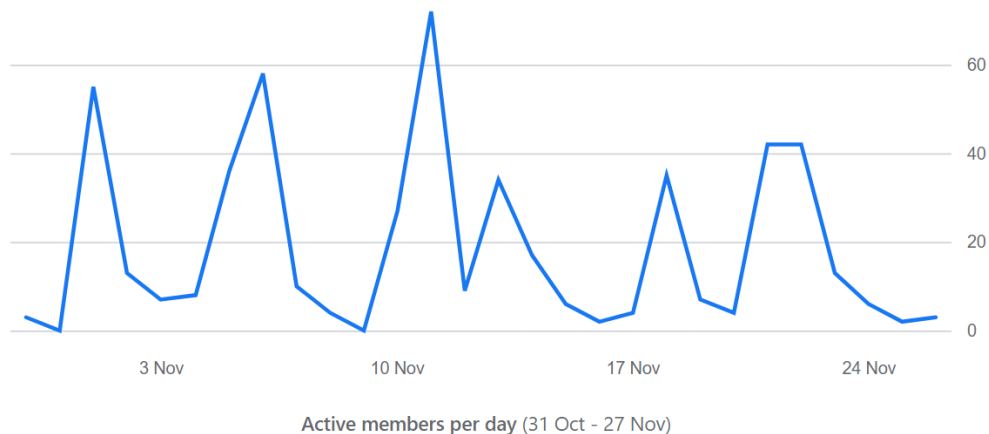
Introduction:

The Forum represents adult and paediatric rheumatology nursing covering the following subspecialties: connective tissue disease, osteoporosis, c-DMARDS and Biologic therapies. All forum activities align with the RCN strategy, including working across the UK, taking account of the requirements in each of the devolved countries.

Membership of the forum:

Total forum number: 1255 an increase of 6.27% in the last 12 months. This enables 1 voting place at Congress. Social media engagement has also increased, our Facebook page now has 456 members of whom 179 have actively engaged with the group during the year.

179 active members ⓘ
31 Oct 2024 - 27 Nov 2024



- The forum was chaired by appointed co-chairs (2), who shared responsibilities within the forum committee. One of the co-chairs stepped down from the committee in November 2024, leaving one chair to take the committee forward in to 2025.
- One longstanding committee member's term came to an end in December 2024.
- The forum carries 3 vacancies
- The committee currently has expertise in:
 - Adult Rheumatology
 - Paediatric Rheumatology
 - Transitional Care
 - Osteoporosis
 - Leadership/management
- The routine six weekly committee meetings were diarised throughout 2024, however the meetings were not always quorate due to the clinical responsibilities of the committee members. The meeting schedule is under review and will be discussed formally at the committee strategy day in February 2025, with a view to reinstating the meetings at times that better meet the needs of the committee.
- This Biologics document project was completed, and went to publication in Spring 2024, it is now live on the website and initial feedback from the wider forum membership is positive.

- The Rheumatology Competency document project is also now completed. This was delayed from 2022 for several reasons including the clinical responsibilities of the expert writers, but it has now been completed and edited by the writing group. It is with the RCN executive team for final sign-off and publication is imminent.
- The forum committee continues in to 2025 with the remaining co-chair leading the committee as chair and 3 remaining committee members.

Reflections on 2024: (Outputs and outcomes)

- FGG projects submitted and approved – types of activity
Competency document
Biologics document
 - Congress related information – resolutions/ matters for discussion submitted
The forum chairs attended Congress for the first time & valued networking with other forum members and the wider RCN membership.
 - Collaboration/ projects with stakeholders e.g. colleges, DOH
The forum committee has attended one Arthritis & Musculoskeletal Alliance (ARMA) meeting during 2024. The membership for this group will not continue into 2025.
The forum committee have liaised with the British Society for Rheumatology (BSR) to identify synergies for projects to be developed in 2025. Good links with the BSR have been established.
The forum committee were able to have a stand at the BSR annual conference in Liverpool and were able to use this time to engage with the wider forum membership and encourage other nurses to consider joining the RCN.
 - Projects that were delivered and have closed
Biologic document was reviewed, updated, completed and published
Competency document has been reviewed, updated, edited, completed and awaiting publication
- The main highlights of 2024 have been;
Networking at RCN Congress & BSR annual conference, continuing to build a close working relationship with BSR with view to more collaborative work in the future
- What has been the impact of the work undertaken by the forum for the RCN membership (consider 4-country perspective)?

The update of the biologic document will support United Kingdom rheumatology practitioners in their day-to-day work in the safe and effective assessment, screening and management of patients where biologic and targeted-synthetic drugs are being considered.

The update of the competency document will support individual rheumatology nurses in their career progression, personal development, planning and service development and importantly a benchmarking tool for all.

- Are there any informatics or pictures of the forum activity that could be included?



**Biologic Disease Modifying
Anti-Rheumatic Drugs
(DMARDs) and Targeted-
Synthetic DMARDs**



- How/what action has the forum committee taken to engage with the wider membership e.g. development of link nurse or expert reference group etc. Indicate any changes or developments in the way that communications take place and what has been the impact

We continue to disseminate contemporary information via Facebook RCHRF members Committee Members have had a continued presence and have delivered educational content at local, regional and national meetings

Paediatric network meeting occurred in Sheffield – organised by committee member Helen Lee – planned to continue annually

- Publications (include link if possible)
 - [Biologic Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drugs \(DMARDs\) and Targeted-Synthetic DMARDs | Publications | Royal College of Nursing](#)
- Contribution to Consultations/Policy development e.g. NICE guidelines
 - Committee member – Lucy Craig on BSR DMARDs biologics committee
 - SAGWAG (standards, audits and guidelines working group) committee member Alan Davidson through 2024

Plans for 2025

Strategy day planned for Feb 2025 for the current committee to discuss work streams and plan projects for 2025.

Social Media posting more to bring the focus back onto the RCN forum

Educational content moving forward – this will be housed on the forum pages and will be planned and quality assured during 2025.

Webinars – the committee have worked hard to put together a programme for a webinar that has not yet been presented. This is something the committee are committed to exploring again in 2025 with a view to running the webinar in the Autumn.

Methotrexate document review to be completed and re-published.

Biologic document review - to be considered in future committees work streams. Otherwise, this document will become obsolete very quickly.

Ongoing collaboration regarding advice line research to aid further exploration and impact on Rheumatology nurses

Date Prepared and By: 29/11/2024 Alex Eden (Chair) Sally Wilson (Professional Lead)