

REPORTED BY NEIL WILSON – NNNG NEWS EDITOR

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A Framework for Knowledge and Skills...

This year's conference was held at the National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham. The corporate venue saw over 85 delegates congregate to receive this year's main conference themes – ethics, day 1 and trauma, day 2. Although there were late changes to the programme, one of the biggest achievements of this year's conference saw the launch of 'A competency framework for nutrition nurse specialists, first edition'.

This key piece of work, undertaken by Lynne Colagiovanni, Consultant Nurse, Nutrition Support and Jane Fletcher, Nutrition Nurse Specialist, has provided the NNNG with a framework that nutrition nurses can use to support their practice and development. The work very clearly links key clinical interventions/competencies into bands and connects them firmly to some core

domains within the KSF (Knowledge and Skills Framework). All delegates were presented with their copy as members of the NNNG, and other members not able to attend will receive their glossy copy shortly.

The competency framework generated healthy debate amongst delegates, with some concerns raised regarding specific interventions

linked to particular bands. The authors of the framework, on behalf of the NNNG fielded these questions, indicating that nutrition nurse roles do vary from Trust to Trust, however, these competencies have been devised to complement current positions, support development and progression, as well as assist in the commissioning of such posts in the future.



With Special Thanks.....

This year saw the NNNG officially recognise Lynne Colagiovanni, Consultant Nurse, who works at University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust. Lynne will be retiring later this year following a career in nursing spanning 36 years, with 22 of those in clinical nutrition. Lynne has not only promoted the role of nutrition nurses but has contributed to the NNNG for 16 years, six of which were as chair. Lynne was presented with a Waterford Crystal Clock.

John Kennedy, NNNG Treasurer, will step down following this year's conference, John who currently works for Fresenius Kabi has been working in the field of nutrition since 1998. John will leave the NNNG committee after managing the accounts of the group for six years. John was presented with heartfelt appreciation and a gift from the group for his hard work and commitment to the financial management of the charity. Anne Myers, who currently sits on the committee, will take up the post of treasurer following a hand over in the summer.

Conference Overview

Day 1

Liz Evans, NNNG Chair and Nutrition Specialist Nurse opened the conference with a National Update on Nutritional Initiatives. Liz recognised that nutrition is being driven even further into the spotlight, with the formation of an all party parliamentary group for nutritional care and hydration. This highly visible strategic group builds on the great work already achieved by other professional groups. The launch of the BAPEN (British Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition) Commissioning Toolkit (2010) and High Impact Interventions (2009) will assist commissioners and practitioners to deliver high quality nutritional care. The RCP (Royal College of Physicians) launched their report on ethical feeding dilemmas, which formed part of the conference this year. The Care Quality Commission will also continue to build on their monitoring of nutrition and hydration. Liz reminded the group of the forthcoming launch of the NCEPOD (National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death) Report relating

to parenteral nutrition (the NCEPOD Report has since been launched – 24th June 2010).

The ethical flavour of the conference was opened and articulately presented by **Dr John Saunders, Consultant Physician** and Co-Chair of the RCP's recent guidelines relating to oral feeding dilemmas. John's presentation examined ethics and law relating to nutritional support. The concepts of humanity, rights and justice were discussed with a familiar focus on the *Airedale NHS Trust v Bland* (1993) case to help embed this thought provoking lecture.

The three presentations following John's discussed the Mental Capacity Act, the RCP's Guidelines, and Quality of Life for Patients with a PEG. These separate lectures complemented the theme of ethics and law and discussed some interesting issues relating to clinical interventions, case studies of ethical dilemmas and a review of the evidence exploring quality of life for patients who require long term PEG feeding.

Dr Kane, Consultant Gastroenterologist and **Lynne Colagiovanni, Consultant Nurse**, returned after lunch with their well executed presentation relating to 'Ethical Case Studies'. They presented complex nutritional management scenarios to the audience and handed the power of decision making over to our delegates. This engaging debate generated lively discussion and demonstrated the complexity of not only managing nutritional patients but complex organisational issues as well.

The final session of the afternoon saw the new 'Hot Topics' debate. The idea for this session was formulated after reviewing the most recent issues raised on the NNNG Yahoo! web chat. The areas for 'open discussion' to members were PN inline filters, the recent NPSA RRR alert and HCAs and nasogastric feeding. The success of this session was evident by the significant contribution of members who debated these topics sharing experience and practical solutions.

Day 2

Kate Pickering, Lead Nutrition Nurse, opened day 2 of the conference (well done, following the Annual Dinner) with her superb overview of Fluid Replacement in Stressed Patients. This whistle stop tour of anatomy and physiology, with practical management advice, was warmly received.

The investigation into gastrostomy insertion was jointly presented by **Marina Goater, Nutrition Nurse Specialist** and **Neil Wilson, Senior Lecturer**. The study was sent out to all NNNG members encouraging Trusts with NNS to submit data on the insertion and aftercare procedures. The preliminary results from 29 NHS Trusts, capturing 2500 patients, demonstrated that practice surrounding gastrostomy insertion differed greatly across the sample. The need for further research was highlighted to be able to provide a robust evidence-base for this area practice.

This year's member presentations provided the conference with a real opportunity to see the great work being undertaken by the group. They were presented by **Christine Shaw, National HPN Liaison Nurse, Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust**; **Lynne Wilbraham, Specialist Nutrition Nurse** with **Lorna Leeder, Specialist Oncology Dietitian, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust**; **Jill Summers, Senior Dietitian Royal Hampshire County Hospital**; and **Craig Hurnauth, Nutrition Nurse Practitioner, Southern General Hospital, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde**. The quality of the presentations were outstanding and the subject areas diverse, resulting in considerable discussion. It was a difficult decision to award a best presentation category, therefore, all the contributors received a token gift for their contribution to improving patient care through practice development.

The final sessions of the afternoon touched upon Nutrition and Wound Healing - The evidence. The presentation examined evidence relating to nutrition and wound healing and challenged widely documented literature regarding certain key micronutrients. The presentation concluded that good nutritional management was essential when caring for patients with wounds but caution should be exercised when giving patients additional micronutrients when deficiency has not been identified.

Tracy Earley, Consultant Nurse rounded up with two inspiring, practically focused presentations on 'Setting up a Nutrition Service in a DGH', with Focus on nurse led clinics and issues of feeding patients with facial injuries. These two interactive lectures presented how services can safely and effectively be developed within the team approach in a district general hospital.



Where were you in the 50s?



2010 Annual Dinner

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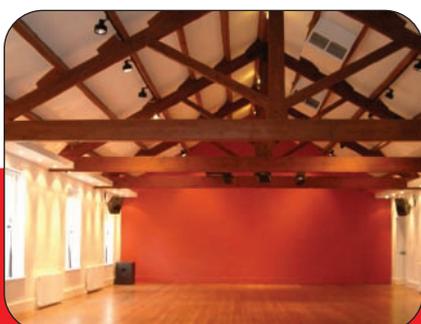
NNNG Annual Conference 2011

13th - 14th June 2011

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