

## Upcoming Meetings

Transfer Meeting - 10th  
Mar 2026 @ midday

Rehab and Follow-Up -  
26<sup>th</sup> Mar 2026 @ 2pm

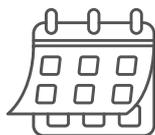
Transfer Meeting - 7th  
April 2026 @ midday

Pharmacist Meeting - 7th  
April 2026 @ 3:30pm

Matrons Meeting - 13<sup>th</sup>  
April 2026 @ 1pm

Sustainability Meeting -  
20<sup>th</sup> April 2026 @ 3pm

Data Leads Meeting - 11th  
May 2026 @ 1pm



Please remember to  
complete DoS twice a  
day (Morning by 9AM  
and evening by 9PM)



Share your content in our  
next newsletter!

For example; forthcoming  
study days or completed or  
ongoing QI projects,

please send an email:  
[KSSCriticalCareNetwork@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:KSSCriticalCareNetwork@uhs.nhs.uk)

## Welcome to the Kent, Surrey and Sussex adult critical care network quarterly newsletter

### EKHUFT Critical Care Conference 2026: Elevating Standards Across Our Network

The East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT) Intensive Care Unit is pleased to announce the EKHUFT Critical Care Conference 2026, an exciting full-day event designed to bring together critical care professionals from across the region. This conference will focus on innovation, shared learning, and the pursuit of excellence in care for our sickest patients.

#### Date & Time:

Thursday 2 April 2026  
09:00 – 17:00

#### Venue

Kent & Medway Medical School – Sibson Building

#### Registration Now Open

Secure your place via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ekhuft-critical-care-conference-2026-tickets-1975124056221?aff=oddtcreator>

Early booking is encouraged, as demand is expected to be high across the network.

#### Theme: The Edge of Excellence – Elevating Standards in Critical Care

Hosted by the EKHUFT ICU team, the conference will unite multidisciplinary clinicians, researchers, educators, and partners for a day of thought-provoking sessions, expert insights, and collaborative discussion. The programme has been designed to inspire and support continuous improvement across our critical care services.

#### Keynote Speakers

A distinguished panel from King's College Hospital will join, including:

- Dr Tom Hurst – Trauma and Neuro Critical Care
- Dr Tasneem Pirani – Acute Liver Failure
- Dr Narayan Karunanithy – Acute Pulmonary Embolism & Cardiogenic Shock Pathways, including ECMO

Additional speakers and session details will be released in the coming weeks.

The EKHUFT ICU team looks forward to welcoming delegates from across the South East for a stimulating, collaborative, and inspiring day focused on raising the bar in critical care.

## Nursing Staff Retention Survey

In March 2025, we once again reached out to our adult critical care nurses to better understand how they're feeling and what might be influencing their plans to stay in, or step away from, their roles.

We were really grateful to receive 1,066 responses in total, including 353 from Kent, Surrey and Sussex units. We want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who took the time to share their experiences. Your voices genuinely help shape the support we provide.

We've put together a full report that highlights the results of the survey, along with recommendations from the Network.

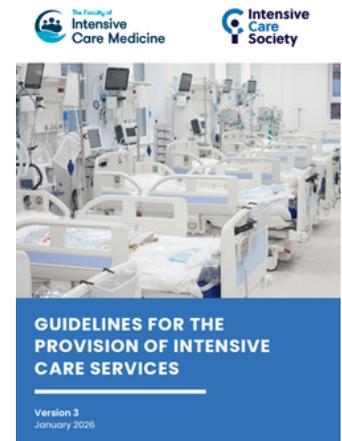
We've also created an infographic to make the findings easier to explore at a glance. For units with ten or more responses, we've designed personalised infographics that can be displayed in common areas for ICU teams to read and reflect on together.

Thank you again to everyone who contributed. Your input truly helps us support our critical care community.



## Launch of the Latest Edition of the Guidelines for the Provision of Intensive Care Services (GPICS)

The Network is pleased to share that the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine (FICM), in collaboration with the Intensive Care Society (ICS), has officially launched the third edition of the Guidelines for the Provision of Intensive Care Services (GPICS). This publication marks a significant milestone, celebrating a decade of joint standard-setting and collaborative leadership in shaping high-quality intensive care across the UK.



Over the past ten years, GPICS has become the cornerstone reference for clinicians, service leaders, commissioners, and healthcare organisations striving to deliver exceptional critical care. The newly released edition builds on this foundation with updated evidence, refreshed recommendations, and clearer guidance that reflects the evolving landscape of intensive care particularly in the context of workforce pressures, service redesign, and the increasing complexity of patient needs.

This third edition places a strong emphasis on the shared ambition of delivering safe, effective, and person-centred care. It offers a practical and authoritative framework for intensive care units (ICUs) seeking to benchmark their current practice, advocate for appropriate resources, and plan sustainable service development. For ICU teams, the updated guidelines will be particularly valuable when engaging in strategic discussions about staffing, models of care, risk registers, and long-term service transformation.

We encourage all clinicians, managers, operational leads, and wider ICU staff to take the time to review the new edition and consider how its recommendations may support local improvement efforts and future service planning.

You can access the latest version of GPICS here: <https://ics.ac.uk/guidance/gpics.html>



## Focus on Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (TTP)

UCLH serves as the regional referral centre for TTP in London and the South East. Currently, patients with suspected TTP are referred by KSS hospitals and transferred via their local ambulance service under emergency category 2 protocols.

Excitingly, Dr Jamie Goddin, ICU Consultant at UCLH and Deputy Operations Lead for the London Critical Care Transfer Service (CCTS), has recently integrated TTP and acute thrombotic microangiopathy (TMA) cases into the London Critical Care Transfer Pathway which is a significant step forward in streamlining care for these complex patients.

To support awareness and education, the network is exploring the opportunity to host a teaching session delivered by one of UCLH's Haemostasis & Thrombosis consultants. This session would cover:

- Clinical updates on TTP
- Insights into the KSS CCTS pathway

We believe this would be valuable not only for critical care teams but also for ED and stroke leads across the network.

If you or your colleagues would like to attend, please email: [KSSCriticalCareNetwork@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:KSSCriticalCareNetwork@uhs.nhs.uk)

## Sharing Learning from Serious Incidents Across Our Network

As part of our commitment to improving patient safety and fostering a culture of shared learning, the network is seeking information on serious incidents that occurred within your units during the following periods:

- 2023–2024 financial year
- 2024–2025 financial year

Our goal is not only to record these incidents but to capture the lessons learned and demonstrate how this learning has been shared across units within the network. By doing so, we can strengthen our collective approach to preventing recurrence and improving care standards.

### Why This Matters

Serious incidents provide valuable insights into system vulnerabilities and opportunities for improvement. When learning is shared effectively:

- We reduce the risk of similar events occurring elsewhere.
- We promote transparency and accountability.
- We build a stronger, safer critical care community.

### What Will Happen with This Information

All submitted data will be compiled into a Network Serious Incident Log, maintained securely on a closed platform via NHS Futures.

The log will serve as a reference point for future Clinical Forums and will inform discussions at the Network Conference, ensuring that learning translates into action.

### How to Submit

To ensure consistency and ease of review, please use the [Serious Incident Reporting Template](#) when providing your information. Include:

- A brief description of the incident.
- Key contributing factors.
- Actions taken and outcomes.
- How learning was shared within your unit and beyond.

### Need Help?

If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to get in touch at [KSSCriticalCareNetwork@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:KSSCriticalCareNetwork@uhs.nhs.uk)

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to excellence in critical care.

## Celebrating Outstanding Leadership Across the KSS Network

### Matron Claire Fowler Awarded Prestigious Cavell Star

We are delighted to share and celebrate the incredible achievement of Matron Claire Fowler at the Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital Intensive Care Unit, who has been awarded a Cavell Star in recognition of her outstanding leadership and dedication to patient care.

The Cavell Star award, which recognises nurses and midwives who demonstrate exceptional leadership, compassion and commitment, was presented to Claire by Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Sarah Hayes. This prestigious recognition reflects not only Claire's professional excellence, but also the profound impact she has on her teams and the wider critical care community.

Claire was nominated by Vascular Team Leader, Pheobe-Curson Endicott, who highlighted her unwavering dedication, compassionate leadership style, and commitment to creating a positive and supportive working environment for all those she leads.



Julia Cristall, Head of Nursing for Critical Care, shared her praise for Claire's contribution:

*"Claire consistently goes above and beyond in her role, not only fulfilling her responsibilities but actively inspiring and promoting the achievements of those around her. Her commitment to fostering a positive and collaborative working environment is evident in everything she does."*

She continued:

*"Claire's open-door approach, strategic thinking, and ability to remain calm under pressure make her an invaluable leader in critical care and beyond. She consistently champions her staff and celebrates their achievements."*

*Claire's leadership is rooted in kindness, clarity and respect, qualities that have earned her the trust and admiration of colleagues across services.*

*"Above all, Claire is a source of encouragement and inspiration. She consistently supports her staff and helps them grow professionally. Her leadership style makes her not only a trusted leader, but a deeply valued colleague."*

This award is a testament to Claire's exceptional leadership and the respect she commands across critical care services. Her work exemplifies the values of compassionate leadership that underpin high-quality care and strong, resilient teams.

Congratulations, Claire, on this well-deserved recognition, a truly deserving recipient of the Cavell Star.



## BACCN Regional Study Day: Major Incident Tabletop Exercise

The BACCN Thames Valley & Wessex Regional Team is hosting an interactive and highly engaging major-incident tabletop exercise, designed specifically for Emergency Department and Intensive Care Unit nurses who wish to strengthen their confidence, clinical judgement, and leadership during high-pressure situations.

This dynamic session is built around a realistic mixed adult-paediatric bus-crash scenario, giving participants the opportunity to work through:

- rapid triage and prioritisation
- surge capacity planning
- escalation pathways into critical care
- effective communication across teams and departments

The study day offers a valuable chance to practise essential skills, explore best practice approaches, and enhance preparedness for managing complex, high-acuity major incidents.

Click here to book your place:

<https://www.baccn.org/meeting-booking/thames-valley-and-wessex-region-online-study-day-all-hands-on-deck-uniting-emergency-and-critical/>

## Expanding AHP Education in Critical Care: New Opportunities Through the Adult Critical Care Course

We're excited to share that the Thames Valley and Wessex Adult Critical Care Course has now opened its doors wider than ever, offering places to a broader range of Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) working in critical care. This includes Physiotherapists, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Critical Care Dietitians, and Operating Department Practitioners.

This expansion reflects a growing recognition, championed by the Intensive Care Society (ICS) that highly specialised, standardised education should be accessible across all professional groups involved in supporting critically ill patients. By learning alongside nursing colleagues, AHPs can now build deeper critical care expertise and confidence, strengthening collaborative practice and ultimately improving the experience and outcomes of patients and their families.

The course has been fully mapped to the national AHP Critical Care Capability Framework, ensuring that participants gain the knowledge and skills aligned with current expectations for modern, multidisciplinary critical care.

### What AHPs Are Saying

Feedback from AHPs currently enrolled has been hugely positive. Many describe how the course has sharpened their clinical reasoning, enriched interprofessional discussions, and allowed them to bring fresh, evidence-based insights straight back to their clinical teams. This direct translation of learning into practice is already helping to enhance patient care and shape more holistic rehabilitation pathways.

### Course Details

- Course: Thames Valley & Wessex Adult Critical Care Course
- Start date: September 2026
- Cost: £2,500.00

### Interested? Here's How to Get Involved

If you're an AHP working in or aspiring to work in critical care, we encourage you to speak with your line manager and explore the course details and entry criteria on our website:

<https://www.southaccnetworks.nhs.uk/tvw/education>

For further questions, you can contact:

Mary Meeks, Course Lead at [mary.meeks@nhs.net](mailto:mary.meeks@nhs.net)

## Pharmacy Survey: Have Your Say

The Critical Care Pharmacist Operational Delivery Network (ODN) Group is inviting input from pharmacy teams nationwide to help shape how we work and improve together. We want to understand what matters most to you, how the group should operate, and where we can make a difference.

This survey is open to both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians and only needs to be completed once per individual.

If you are a critical care pharmacist and have not yet received the survey link, please email:

[KSSCriticalCareNetwork@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:KSSCriticalCareNetwork@uhs.nhs.uk) to request access.

Your feedback is vital in ensuring we deliver the best support and collaboration across our network. Thank you for taking part.

## 2025 ACC Census

The 2025 ACC Census has officially been published and on the NCDR platform.

Our network analyst Roxy (roxanne.burns@nhsnet) has completed additional analysis of the findings. If you would like further insight please reach out to her directly.

Thank you to all who completed.

[KSSCriticalCareNetwork@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:KSSCriticalCareNetwork@uhs.nhs.uk)

## CC3N Critical Care Symposium 2026: Join the Conversation

The Network is excited to share details of the upcoming CC3N Critical Care Symposium 2026, taking place on Wednesday 18 March 2026 at the Aston Conference Centre, Birmingham. This event is a fantastic opportunity for nursing and AHP staff working in critical care across England to come together, learn, and collaborate.

### Why Attend?

- Topical & Insightful Sessions – Explore key themes in critical care, including workforce challenges, sustainability, and rehabilitation.
- Inspiring Speakers – Hear from leading voices such as:
  - Professor Ramani Moonesinghe – Interim National Director of Patient Safety, NHS England.
  - Professor Hugh Montgomery – UCL Intensive Care Medicine and Climate Health, global leader on health and climate change.

### Registration

Places were free and allocated on a Critical Care Network basis. Each network received a unique booking code, and we previously shared information inviting staff to request a place. All free tickets through the network have now been filled.

If you would still like to attend, you can join the waiting list by registering directly on the CC3N Symposium website by scanning the barcode below:



### Why It Matters

- Collaborate with colleagues across English critical care units.
- Gain insights on sustainability, workforce resilience, and patient recovery.
- Connect with national leaders shaping critical care policy and practice.

Mark your diaries for 18 March 2026 and secure your spot on the waiting list. Your participation will strengthen our network's voice and help drive improvements in critical care.



Kent, Surrey and Sussex ACC Operational Delivery Network

## ICS SOA Congress 2026 – Let's Be There!

We are excited to share that the Intensive Care Society's State of the Art (SOA) Congress 2026 will take place from 30 June to 2 July at the ICC Birmingham. This is one of the most important events and we strongly encourage staff across our network to attend.

The SOA is a chance to learn, connect, and shape the future of intensive care. The programme has been designed with input from the critical care community, offering masterclasses, practical workshops, and inspiring main sessions. Whether you're a consultant, trainee, nurse, AHP, or involved in research and quality improvement, there's something for everyone.

This year's highlights include:

- A keynote address by Dr Kevin Fong, renowned physician and NASA researcher, exploring risk and resilience in healthcare.
- Panel discussions with ICS, ESICM, and FICM leaders, bringing global perspectives on critical care.
- Opportunities to present your work: submit an abstract by 23 January and showcase your research, QI projects, or educational initiatives.

[Register now](#) and join the Intensive Care Society for three days of learning, collaboration, and inspiration.

## Voices of Change: BACCN Conference 2026

We're delighted to share details of the upcoming 41st Annual BACCN Conference, taking place on 12–13 October 2026 at the prestigious ICC Belfast. With the theme "Voices of Change: Shaping the Next Era in Critical Care Nursing", this conference is an unmissable opportunity for professional growth, collaboration, and inspiration.

### Why You Should Attend

- **Unparalleled Networking:** Gather with critical care nurses, managers, educators, researchers, and allied professionals from across the UK and Ireland.
- **Leading-edge Education:** Learn from expert panellists, keynote speakers, and interactive workshops, plus presentations from valued BACCN members and your peers.
- **Professional Growth & Innovation:** Engage with the latest research, quality improvement strategies, and clinical innovations shaping critical care nursing.

### Conference Highlights

- **Keynote Talks & Panel Sessions** exploring new directions in critical care nursing, supported by contributions from clinicians, researchers, and patient advocates.
- **Interactive Workshops** offering hands-on learning experiences.
- **Member Presentations** : bring your projects, research, or initiatives and contribute to the profession's collective knowledge base.
- **Balanced Schedule:** Ample time is set aside for networking, social events, and connecting with like-minded professionals.

### Practical Details

Dates: 12 & 13 October 2026

Venue: ICC Belfast

Theme: Voices of Change: Shaping the Next Era in Critical Care Nursing

### Registration & Funding

Details on registration fees and abstract submissions will be available soon on the [BACCN Conference page](#).

The conference committee often provides grants and financial aid, especially for early-career nurses, BACCN members or those presenting abstracts.

This conference is a key platform to strengthen your skills, expand your professional network, and influence the direction of critical care nursing. We encourage you to seize this opportunity—watch this space for updates on registration, abstract submissions, and grants.

## Spotlight on Sustainability: The Watersafe Project



The Network's Sustainability Subgroup met on 13 January 2026, and one of the key projects discussed was the Watersafe Project, led by Jaroslaw Graniewski, ITU Consultant & Infection Control Lead at Wexham Park Hospital, Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust.

### Background

Wexham Park Hospital, built in 1965, has a unique flat layout with shared wastewater systems. Following a 2003 CPE outbreak linked to sinks, the ITU faced a significant infection risk. In 2023, the concept of removing bedside sinks was introduced, with formal planning starting in January 2024. The aim: reduce infection risk and improve sustainability, despite initial scepticism due to national guidelines.

### Implementation

- Education: Staff, patients, and relatives; visits to the Netherlands for best practice.
- Redesign: Removed 14 of 18 sinks in ITU; installed sensor-operated taps without sinks, foot-operated doors, and redesigned dirty utility rooms.
- Hand Hygiene: Adopted alcohol-based and chlorine-based products; promoted a "sink-less mindset."
- Phased Work: Closed 2–3 beds at a time for upgrades.

### Challenges

- Staff resistance, especially agency nurses.
- Executive approval required guideline derogation.
- Ongoing education and product testing for skin compatibility.

### Benefits

- Infection reduction: Hospital-acquired and ventilator-associated pneumonia halved within 6 months.
- Cost savings: Sink maintenance costs dropped from £18,000/year to £4,000/year.
- Sustainability: Reduced water use, eliminated pulp products, introduced reusable bedpans.
- Proactive prevention: Total project cost (£250,000) equals the cost of treating one CPE infection.

### Future Plans

- Expansion trust-wide and interest from the New Hospital Programme.
- Potential adoption in theatres using alcohol-based scrubbing.

### Key Learnings

- Removing sinks significantly reduces splash contamination risk (up to 2m radius).
- Chlorine-based hand hygiene offers strong AMR and environmental benefits.
- Education and product choice critical for compliance and skin health.

The Watersafe Project demonstrates how bold innovation can improve infection control, sustainability, and cost efficiency, setting a benchmark for future hospital design.



## Share Your Success Stories in Future Network Newsletters!

We're always looking to celebrate and showcase the fantastic work happening across our units. If you have something inspiring to share, we'd love to feature it in upcoming editions of the Network Newsletter.

Here are some examples of what we're looking for:

- Research projects currently underway or recently completed
- Insights and learning from recent initiatives or improvement projects
- Success stories and achievements worth celebrating
- Innovations and best practices that others can learn from

Please send us the details so we can highlight your accomplishments and share them across the network.

### What to include:

A short summary (250–300 words), images, or links to supporting materials.

This is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate your team's efforts and inspire others across our critical care community. Thank you for helping us shine a spotlight on the excellent work happening every day!

## Decision-making for young adults with intellectual disability in ICU

Young adults (16-24 years) with intellectual disability occasionally require ICU admission, and decisions about appropriate ceilings of therapy can be complex. We know anecdotally that clinicians find these decisions difficult, but we lack systematic evidence about the challenges faced and what support would be most helpful.

A survey has been sent out looking for one senior medical and one senior nursing response per ICU to ensure representative coverage across the UK.

This 5-minute survey aims to:

- Understand clinician confidence in decision-making for this population
- Identify specific challenges and variability in practice
- Explore interest in developing multi-professional guidelines and expert support systems

Your response matters. The findings will directly inform whether and how we develop resources to support clinicians facing these difficult decisions. So far from the responses that have been received, the emerging findings are striking. Nearly half of senior practitioner's report finding decision-making more difficult for young adults with intellectual disability compared to other patients, yet this population is encountered regularly across UK ICUs. There is overwhelming demand for clinical guidelines and access to expert advice, with practitioners at all career stages highlighting the need for additional support in this area.

Every response strengthens the evidence base and helps us better support both patients and clinicians.

## Meetings

Below is a list of dates for upcoming Adult Critical Care Network meetings and events.

If you have any queries regarding these meetings please contact [KSSCriticalCareNetwork@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:KSSCriticalCareNetwork@uhs.nhs.uk)

Date	Time	Meeting	Location
10th Mar 2026	12:00 - 13:00	Transfer Meeting	MS Teams
26th Mar 2026	14:00 - 15:00	Rehab & Follow up group	MS Teams
7th April 2026	13:00 - 14:00	Transfer Meeting	MS Teams
7th April 2026	15:30 - 16:30	Pharmacists Meeting	MS Teams
13th April 2026	13:00 - 14:00	Matrons meeting	MS Teams
20th April 2026	15:00 - 16:00	Sustainability Meeting	MS Teams
11th May 2026	13:00 - 14:00	Data & Audit Leads meeting	MS Teams