



# NPAG News

## December 2020

Edition 170

Welcome to the December edition of NPAG News.

As we approach the end of an unbelievable year we have been looking back at the many changes imposed on our own service and trying to take stock.

The second Lockdown for England has now drawn to an end with perhaps just a glimmer of hope as we approach the festive season.

December will continue to be a busy period for NPAG's national groups, which continue to operate on a virtual platform.

Given the prospects for early next year, we have decided to continue to operate virtually until the end of the March. Many groups are finding the new ways of working quite effective and have already outlined a number of benefits including these:

- ✓ Greener – Reduced Carbon Emissions
- ✓ More Cost Effective
- ✓ Better Attendance as less time away from the office required
- ✓ Can accommodate last-minute changes more effectively
- ✓ Documents shared in the 'Chat' can be copied and saved
- ✓ 'Chat' available for up to 30 days after the meeting.

Face-to-face meetings clearly offer other well-documented advantages, and we all hope to return to them in some way over time. So, as groups renew we are drawing up cost plans and different options for your consideration.

We are also looking at the ongoing development of the Teams function to enhance the Membership experience. These developments won't replace the established facilities such as the Members' Areas on the website and NPAG Network, which remains very busy, but rather provide an additional feature for those that wish to take advantage.

We would like to wish you all a very happy holiday season and a peaceful New Year. Thank you all for your continued support to NPAG and please stay safe.

**The NPAG Team**



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The NPAG Health Visiting & School Health Services Network has just started a new round of meetings and this is what the co-Chair said:

*"It's an absolute pleasure and so refreshing!  
Agree what a start to this year! look forward to the other meetings."*



## Theatres and Decontamination Virtual Conference

Thursday 25th March 2021

This conference will provide delegates with the opportunity to hear from key speakers on a variety of subjects affecting theatres and decontamination science personnel. The programme will inform and educate delegates on subjects that affect their everyday life all of which will help contribute to the safety and care of our patients.

### Why Attend?

This annual one-day conference provides new insights into issues that are being talked about in real-time, today. The conference agenda has been developed by Theatre Managers and Decontamination Leads.

There will be plenty of virtual networking opportunities throughout the day with the chance to meet with NPAG Theatres and Decontamination members who have achieved success and savings through productive benchmarking.

In 2020, delegate feedback was extremely positive with 100% of respondents recording they would recommend this conference to a colleague.

### Who Should Attend?

This conference is open to all NHS and non-NHS, Theatres, Surgical and Decontamination Managers/Leads.

#### Message from Trevor Garcia, Chair:

*"This conference will give you the opportunity to hear updates in decontamination science and from our colleagues from theatre, with some sessions providing an insight into how the same situation affects us differently."*

#### Delegate Feedback

*"Really informative conference with some common themes around benchmarking & quality improvements. Mark Campbell's presentation at the cutting edge of Sterilisation was fascinating."*

*"Thank you very much for organising another fantastic NPAG conference, we really enjoyed it & I took away loads of useful information."*

*"I would like to say thank you to yourself & the rest of the team for a fabulous day yesterday. We thoroughly enjoyed the conference and left feeling inspired and motivated to share our learning with our teams upon our return."*

### The NPAG Virtual Conference Guarantee

This is the safest way for us to deliver this important conference to you and what better way than virtually to actively work towards reducing our carbon footprint. The experience we will be offering will provide you with ample networking time with peers, presenters and exhibitors. Presentations will offer plenty of opportunity for Q&A and engagement can still take place once the conference is over. The programme has been managed to ensure sufficient break times which you can use to step away from your screen or schedule meetings with fellow attendees. All attendees will receive a CPD certificate.

### Presentations

The conference agenda has been supported by members from both the NPAG Decontamination and Operating Theatres Best Value Groups. Feedback from last year and the experiences over the past year have helped form this agenda. Presentations include:

**Mark Campbell**, Decontamination Service Manager, Cardiff & Vale Health Board 'Year 3 of protein residue removal study – University Hospital of Wales'.

**Helen Campbell**, IDSc Director of Education, & Consultant, Decontamination Education & Consulting will be presenting: Career Pathway for Decontamination.

**Mark Rigby**, Chair of the NPAG Operating Theatres BVG and Head of Theatre Services, Warrington & Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS FT will be discussing the impacts of Covid-19, experiences and learning points.

**Daniel Coole**, Surgical Holdings will present on Single Use or Reusable Devices - Challenging Device for Decontamination.

**Angela Kelly**, University Hospitals of Plymouth NHS Trust will present Working as a team—The of the Role Surgical Instrument Manager.

For the current agenda please visit our website: [www.npag.org.uk](http://www.npag.org.uk).

### Interested?

Please contact Marie Cherry for further details including a booking form:

E: [marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk)

**Early Bird Rate for all NHS Staff—£60 if booked before the 31st December 2020.**



## NPAG National District Nurses Network

### NMC drops plans to axe District Nurse title

The Nursing and Midwifery Council has recently performed a U-turn on its plans to scrap recordable district nurse and general practice nursing titles, following a significant intervention from the UK's four chief nursing officers. The regulator was planning to retire the nine existing specialist practice qualifications (SPQs) and replace them with a generic community one.

It is understood that the "catalyst" for the NMC changing its course was a letter from Ruth May, Professor Fiona McQueen, Professor Charlotte McArdle and Professor Jean White – CNOs for England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales respectively.

The NMC is still looking to go ahead with plans to introduce a generic community SPQ, but it is now proposing to keep five of the existing SPQs in district nursing, general practice nursing, community children's nursing, community learning disabilities nursing and community mental health nursing.

The new proposals will go to public consultation next year and will need approval from the NMC's council before being implemented.

Among the groups that were working with the RCN and QNI to fight the proposals were the Association of District Nurse Educators, the Community Nurse Executive Network, the Association of General Practice Nurse Educators, **the NPAG National District Nurses Network (NDNN)**.

The NDNN is a large, dynamic, friendly group. It brings together District Nurses from all over the country to meet and share new ideas, discuss common problems, provide solutions, whilst being creative and innovative.

*"This group provides an amazing opportunity to meet and network with other organisations providing community nursing services around the country. It provides the opportunity to share best practice and learning. The links the group have with both NHS England and the QNI provides an excellent quarterly update from both, plus the opportunity to be involved in specific national pieces of work produced by both organisations." Integrated Pathway Manager & Co-chair of the group, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals*

The Network traditionally holds four meetings a year – with the current pandemic we are looking at other ways of networking. At present the group plans to hold two virtual meetings, a conference and a subsequent face-to-face meeting, as circumstances permit. The first meeting of the current series took place in November and was very successful. We will, of course, continually be monitoring the government guidance and members will be kept fully updated.



*The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham presents an inspirational message to the delegates at last year's Conference.*

Here is a small sample of some of the issues the group has dealt with over its last few meetings:

- ◆ Insulin Safety
- ◆ Nursing Associates and Assistant Practitioner
- ◆ Documentation .

*"I have found the networking with other likeminded people to be of most value. This has enabled a country wide perspective on issues pertaining to District Nursing which have influence and helped shape the development of strategies and policies to the betterment of patient care delivery. The meetings are well structured and provide an environment for sharing and disseminating information keeping the membership up to date with current and future plans affecting community services. The group work done at the meetings to influence higher strategic policy and national standards has been of a positive benefit to district nursing." District Nurse Practice Teacher, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust*

**Interested?** The next meeting will take place on January 20th via MS Teams. To join the NDNN, please contact Laura Howe.

E: [laura.howe@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:laura.howe@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk).

Try before you buy places are available.



## Helping our Members - NPAG Network

The NPAG Network is busier than ever, reflecting its invaluable support to all NPAG Best Value Group and Network members during the most challenging of times for healthcare.

The service was developed by NPAG, recognising the need for a forum for healthcare providers to ask questions, request assistance and information, share documents, and get professional and practical advice from their peers throughout the UK, saving time and money in not re-inventing the wheel.

Members of the NPAG's Best Value and National Networking Groups form the nucleus of the Network – providing over 600 contacts throughout the UK. Evidence shows that they are all keen to share their experiences.



This small sample of recent requests from across the groups reflects the huge spread of subject areas covered:

***“Does anyone have a Continence Pathway and Continence Policy they are willing to share please?”***

NDNN Member

***“I am enquiring as to what other Hospital Porters use to take patients to the mortuary from the wards, whether it is a trolley or other method.”***

Facilities South Member

***“We are looking for an example of a job description, roles, responsibilities etc. of a parking attendant at a Hospital site.”***

NHS Car Parking & Sustainable Transport Network Member

***“Can I ask if you could request any information any members (probably more so the Mental Health Trusts) if anyone has a Testing Procedure/s they can share with me for the Testing of Reduced Ligature / Anti Ligature Collapsible Curtain tracks / rails.”***

Estates Member

***“Can you let me know if you are having any issues with none collection of clinical waste from any of your sites, as we at Berkshire Healthcare have major issues with collections with waste now backing up?”***

Waste Management Member

***“At STH we are developing a refreshed Car parking policy and permit system for staff to apply for parking permissions. I would be grateful to receive any copy policies, application forms and permit criteria information you can share to influence our internal developments.”***

NHS Car Parking & Sustainable Transport Network Member

If you don't currently use the service, please do so. You will not be disappointed! Please send your NPAG Network requests to: E: [npagnetwork@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:npagnetwork@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk)

(Please note: You need to be an NPAG member to submit an enquiry).



## NPAG Clinical Engineering groups—North and South Join us in 2020/21

Global Clinical Engineering Day made a big impact this year thanks to a new video produced by Basit Abdul of NHS England and presented by the well known broadcaster Vivienne Parry.

With contributions from many Clinical Engineering departments the video highlights the contribution made by Clinical Engineering in responding to the COVID-19 situation. Lasting well over an hour in length the presentation features many departments around the UK and stars some well-known faces from our NPAG Clinical Engineering groups!

Coupled with a large social media campaign and with the support of professional institutes and NPAG the video is a lasting testament of the valuable input Clinical Engineering makes every day, not just in times of crisis!

Watch it again at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcihsFHC3rc>

If you would like more information about the NPAG Clinical Engineering groups please contact Marie Cherry:  
E: [marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk)





## Advertising in NPAG News

Would you like to see your company feature in NPAG News?  
Want to come along and talk to our members about a new product or initiative?

**Sponsorship packages are now available with prices starting from as little as £200!**

NPAG's current sponsorship packages include:

- ◆ BVG Meeting Sponsorship
- ◆ Event & Workshop Sponsorship
- ◆ NPAG News Sponsorship
- ◆ Feature an advert in the NPAG monthly newsletter

If you would like to speak to us about any of these options or to create a bespoke package we would love to hear from you! Get in touch today!

## What's hot for the coming months

### National Networking Group Meetings

#### December

- NHS Sustainability Leads
- IT & Connectivity
- Decontamination
- Estates
- Resilience
- Security
- Nursing & Temporary Staffing
- Operating Theatres
- Clinical Engineering North
- Estates
- Telecoms

#### January

- Clinical Engineering South
- Clinical Engineering North
- Facilities joint meeting
- NDNN
- NHS Car Parking & Sustainable Transport
- NHS Transport & Logistics

### Workshops & Events

**Clinical Professional Development for Occupational Health Nurses**

**Human Factor Onsite Training**

**Introduction to Resilience in the NHS, Onsite Training Workshop**

**Putting the Patient First Onsite Training Workshops**

**Equality and Diversity Onsite Training Workshops**

**Assertiveness & Self-Management Training Workshops**

For details of the above please contact [Marie Cherry](#)

### Conference Dates

**Theatres and Decontamination Conference: 25th March 2021, Virtual**

Register your interest with: [Marie Cherry](#)

**Waste and Sustainability Conference: 29th April 2021 Virtual**

Register your interest with: [Marie Cherry](#)

**Clinical Engineering Conference: 14th September 2021, Midlands**

Register your interest with: [Marie Cherry](#)

## Contact Us

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