

NPAG News

August 2023 Edition 202

Welcome to the August 2023 Edition of NPAG News.



Being a traditional holiday period, August is a relatively quiet month in terms of NPAG meetings and events but we use that time to put the finishing touches to our busy autumn programme, just around the corner.

In this edition we include details of forthcoming Conferences and new rounds of our best value groups.

NPAG is pleased to announce the **2023 National District Nurses Conference**, taking place on 28th November in Northampton. Here you will be able to explore the past, present and future of district nursing—from its conception in Liverpool, through the current provision of safe, quality patient care to a look at what's next—see page 6.

Before that we are again running one of our most popular annual events. The **NPAG Clinical Engineering Conference** takes place on Tuesday 12th September at Wolverhampton Racecourse— find out more on page 5 with more details coming in the next edition.



We are also planning the launch of our new **Energy best value group** in late autumn and are identifying national speakers to support the launch. Some of our existing groups are starting new meeting rounds and we carry details of those on pages 2 - 4.

As usual, we also carry some examples of the many and varied requests made via the NPAG Network and inter-meeting discussion service on page 7.

We hope you have a great month and, if you are taking time off, a well-deserved break. We wish you all the best from

The NPAG Team

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District Nurses - The Past. The Present.

The Future - how exciting to be part of a conference covering these themes. I have worked in community nursing for 30 years and I have seen so many positive changes during this time. I still feel as privileged today to work in a service that has over 160 years of documented history. I look forward to walking through some of those steps during the day also looking at the great work we are presently doing and having a look at the future possibilities and innovations.

Rebekah Matthews,
NDNN Chairperson



Telecoms Best Value Group 2023-24

Meeting 1: Tuesday 12th September 2023

The Telecoms BVG brings together NHS Telecoms professionals, industry experts and service providers, enabling members to evaluate new technology, share best practice and influence service providers to secure best value solutions to telecommunication services across the NHS estate. The group offers peer to peer support to solve complex technical problems within member Trusts.

The group holds quarterly meetings at a Central London location. Two or three service providers present at each meeting on topical issues or products relating to current challenges relevant to members business needs.

The meeting agendas are driven by members' needs and requirements. Key topics for 2023/24 will include:

- Evaluating innovative, cost effective solutions to replace current bleep and pager technology.
- Continued transition / migration from analogue to VoIP telephony and digital services.
- Development and integration of Unified Communications platforms.
- Consultation with service providers to secure innovative cost effective solutions and tariffs.
- The planned demise of PSTN and analogue telephony and the alternatives available.



The NPAG group was highly recommended to me by a good friend and now retired NHS Telecoms Manager. Six years on I have been a member and find the group extremely informative and friendly giving support with all Telecoms challenges. The large wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise amongst the group members is invaluable for problem solving and support. Also, you get to see and discuss new products and services keeping abreast with the upcoming technology.



Deputy Telecoms Manager The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS FT

Why join? Our Co-Chair says:

"This is the only National forum where NHS Telecoms professionals regularly meet, share knowledge and information and hear presentations from Major Service Providers. Although members belong to separate NHS organisations, many of our issues are common and are therefore discussed amongst like minded members at our friendly meetings. Don't struggle along on your own, come and meet the group, I promise that membership will add value to your life" **Simon Owen, Epsom & St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust**

Interested? For further details please contact info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

Operating Theatre Managers Best Value Group 2023-24

Meeting 1: Wednesday 13th September 2023

The Operating Theatre Managers group is a well established and respected network that continues to grow year-on-year. With increasing pressures on this hugely important part of the NHS, the group has never been more important.

A major benefit of joining the Operating Theatres BVG is that it is a national group with members from across the country – thereby offering a greater range of knowledge sharing, learning and support.

The following are just a few of the regular ‘Standing Items’ topics that the group aims to cover:

- Corrective actions arising from audits
- WHO Checklists
- Governance
- Theatre Efficiencies
- CIPs
- Audits
- Job Descriptions & Person Specifications
- Human Factors
- Safer Surgery / Patient Safety
- Theatre Staffing – Skill Mix, Training, etc.
- Benchmarking
- Never Events

Each meeting also has a ‘Hot Topics’ slot where members can raise any current issues or areas where they need help and advice. We also have ‘Sharing Good Practice’ slots where members are invited to share local projects and initiatives, along with ‘External/Commercial Presentation’ slots.

Members also benefit significantly from the networking that takes place between meetings. This includes the incredibly valuable ‘Inter Meeting Emails Discussion’ facility whereby members can ask questions of all the other members, often receiving answers the same day (if not within the hour!)

Who would benefit from joining? Anyone in the NHS who has a role in Operating Theatres management.

Why join? Our Chair says:

“This group is vital for all Theatre Managers and Theatre Leads. The benchmarking element gives the members a strong sense of awareness of how other theatre departments are performing. CIP programmes are continually shared in meetings, contributing to a big difference to an organisations financial stability. The governance aspect is amazing, we are dedicated to sharing never event incidents and audit types to keep theatres safe. We have members who work with the CQC and add great feedback and value to the group. With the NHS financial challenges we face over the coming year, we will essentially be concentrating on staffing cost and financial cost reductions, plus continue to examine all of the above.”

Head of Theatre Services, Warrington & Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS FT

There are four meetings in the round, the last being the joint annual *Theatres and Decontamination Conference* in May 2024. The first meeting is taking place on **Wednesday 13 September 2023**, face-to-face in London.

Interested?

Contact info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk [Operating Theatres Best Value Group | NPAG](#)

Try Before You Buy places are available.

NHS Sustainability Leads Network 2023-24

Meeting 1: Thursday 28th September 2023—Virtual via MS Teams

The health and care system in England is responsible for an estimated 4% of the country's carbon footprint. The NHS has therefore committed to reaching *Net Zero* as soon as possible, requiring the support of all 1.3 million NHS employees. It is a huge challenge.



I really find the meetings very helpful. Understanding how different Trusts and regions are working.



NHS Sustainability Leads Network 2022-23 Member

Why choose NPAG?

The NPAG NHS Sustainability Leads Network is a well established national group of over 40 managers from major NHS Trusts across the country who are committed to making a difference. The membership base is open to **NHS staff only**, enabling a safe place for discussion.

We launched in London in 2012, when the world of sustainability in the NHS was very different. Since then, we have grown significantly in membership and in influence, with ongoing contact with central bodies such as NHS England, the Greener NHS Team and NHS Supply Chain. In 2023-24 there will be four meetings, with the first taking place via MS Teams on the **28th September 2023**. Members freely share policies, procedures and different approaches, as well as seeking advice and guidance from colleagues on current challenges - all aimed at increasing knowledge, saving time and improving effectiveness.

What are the current challenges?

How can we ensure we achieve senior management buy-in and staff and public engagement? How are you delivering your Green Plan? Are you fully engaged with your ICS leads? How do we continue to address daily challenges, whilst planning longer-term approaches such as adaptation to Climate Change and, of course, planning for a Net Zero NHS?

Key themes for the next round in addition to Net Zero NHS:

Continuing to work with The Greener NHS Team, and NHSE more widely as a focus group, providing feedback on the implementation of a range of tools and guidance notes and offering them an 'open door' to quarterly meetings, as well as placing a strong focus on responding to the Climate Emergency.

Why join? Our Chair says:

"The NPAG Sustainability Leads Group is extremely well positioned to support sustainability professionals working in the healthcare sector. Members contribute to and drive the agenda, and discussion is lively and varied. Receiving regular updates and early sight of national opportunities and strategic direction leaves members feeling like the quarterly meetings are a worthwhile commitment and they leave with renewed energy, ideas, and the support of a group of peers in an often-challenging area, particularly important as we are now trying to deliver a Net Zero NHS."

Interested? e:laura.howe@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk for more information or visit our [website](https://www.npag.org.uk)

Try Before You Places are available.

Clinical Engineering Conference

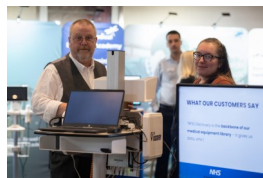
A Vision for the Future

12th September 2023

Wolverhampton Racecourse

Join us for a day of learning, networking, new ideas and challenges at the NPAG Clinical Engineering Conference.

The day provides opportunities to learn from others' clinical and technical best practice. Under this year's theme, 'A Vision for the Future', hear from speakers with first hand knowledge of service improvement, training, education and personal development. There will also be time for in-depth discussions with industry leading suppliers and manufacturers.



Why attend?

Trust leadership teams require consistent assurance that medical devices are being managed effectively and in an efficient and safe manner within set financial restraints. The conference brings together thought-leaders in the field to share their knowledge, experience and expertise.

Excellent conference with good range of speakers and exhibitors... All the talks were insightful, providing food for thought and helped start conversations with my colleagues.

2022 Conference Delegate

Previous delegate feedback has been extremely positive with **100%** of respondents recording the day as **excellent** or **good** and everyone said they would recommend this conference to others.

Conference Agenda

Chairman's Welcome and Introductions

Paul Blackett, NPAG Associate, North & South Clinical Engineering Facilitator

National Equipment Tracking Information System

David Lawson, Director of Medical Technology DHSC & Jake Palmer, Planning and Projects Lead, DHSC

Virtual Wards implementation

Paul White, Head of Clinical Engineering, Cambridge University Hospitals

Knowledge is Power: How Tracking Medical Equipment Utilization Maximizes Patient Throughput, Improves Workflows, and Saves Money

Jason Koster, Executive Director, Customer Success, Cohealo

Aligning an approach to maintenance risk across an ICS

Thomas Hague, UCLH

Sustainability

Oliver Pearson, British Medical Auctions

Clinical Engineering Network Experiences

Ruth Thomsen – Scientific Director, NHS England

Medical Equipment Tracking in the Community

Kulpreet Singh, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

New Approaches to Arrhythmia Diagnosis

Simon Martin and Sam Bovan, Spacelabs Healthcare

The IT and Connectivity Network

Patrick Maw, UCLH

A View from the MDSO Network

Simon Ward, Nottingham University Hospitals

Chairman's Summary and Prize Draw

Interested?

E: info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

Meet our sponsors:



Who should attend?

- ☒ Head of Clinical Engineering
- ☒ Clinical Engineering Manager
- ☒ IT Technical Lead
- ☒ Resilience/ Risk Management Officer

National District Nurses Conference 2023

District Nurses - The Past. The Present. The Future

28th November 2023 | The Park Inn by Radisson Northampton



National Performance
Advisory Group

Registration
open!

NPAG is pleased to announce the 2023 National District Nurses Conference, taking place on 28th November in Northampton.

Explore the past, present and future of district nursing—from its conception in Liverpool, through the current provision of safe, quality patient care to a look at what's next. How can district nurses continue to have a voice and how that voice can be stronger in the future?

Plus meet with industry representatives:

CIVICA

convatec

CorrMed
Medical Bags

medi



NTH
SOLUTIONS



Thesis
Technology

criticalarc

Hear from inspirational speakers including:

- ♦ QNI: Crystal Oldman
- ♦ NHS England: Sam Sherrington
- ♦ Dr Susan Cohen
- ♦ Community Kit Bag: Melanie Cambage
- ♦ Conleth Kelly
- ♦ Anita Rolfe



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Rebekah Matthews, NDNN Chairperson

Contact info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk to secure your place now!
Sponsorship packages are also available

Working with NPAG

NPAG has established many important partnerships over the years. We work closely with a number of excellent training providers and business associates. We are currently looking to recruit either one or two associates with experience in the following area, or an interest in:

- ♦ Energy
- ♦ Clinical Engineering

If these are of interest to you, please contact us:

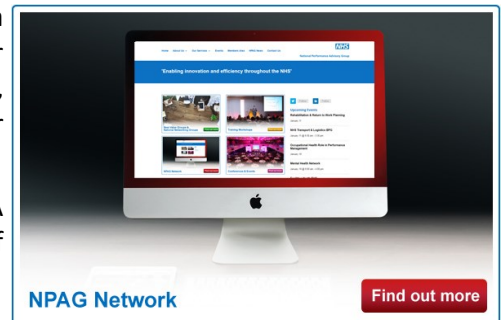
info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

NPAGNetwork

and Email Exchange service

The NPAG Network is available to all Members and continues to provide a welcome service. It was created to meet 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.

Some NPAG groups have developed their own Email Exchange Q&A service, which sits alongside the NPAG Network. We cover a variety of recent examples here.



“Is there an NHS database on staff car parking spaces ratio’s. Car parking has risen up the agenda again and just calculated ours being 1:3.3 one car parking space to 3 permits. Is that the norm or slightly higher then average?”
NHS Car Parking and Sustainable Transport Network Member

“I have a team member that is due to go on a sabbatical in October for five months. To fill his position I want to look at utilising an agency. Do any of the members have a contact for a reputable company that they may have used in the past?” Clinical Engineering North Member

“Do any areas have a SOP and possible flowchart to support the TWOC process using the HOUDINI model for community settings that they are willing to share?” NDNN Member

“Have you, or anyone you know, done the Unify Xpressions course; specifically detailing how to setup IVRs and Call Routing with prompts and branching ?” Telecoms Member

“For those of you that manage rostering teams as well as Trust banks, how involved in roster reviews do your teams get involved in annual reviews (with safer staffing leads) and individual managers where staff may owe hour and time/money due to overtaken leave etc?” Temporary Workforce Network Member

“Does anyone in the group know of or have any information or study results they are happy to share with us around an increase of Hospital acquired infections while using re-useable sharps containers. Any information would be much appreciated as we are looking into using re-usable sharps containers at NUH.”
Waste Management Member

If you don't currently use the service, please do so. You will not be disappointed!
For NPAG Network requests email: npagnetwork@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

Please note, you need to be an NPAG member to submit an enquiry and members must have permission to share documentation with NPAG.

What's hot for the coming months

National Networking Group Meetings

September – Decontamination; Estates; Facilities (North); NDNN; NHS Car Parking & Sustainable Transport; Temporary Workforce; Operating Theatres; Waste Management

Clinical Development for Occupational Health Professionals

Noise & Vibration Health Surveillance & Case Management

Wed 6 September, half day virtual workshop Part 1
Wed 13 September, half day virtual workshop Part 2

Human Factors in OH, Ergonomic Assessment & Adjustments

Wed 20 September, half day virtual workshop Part 1
Wed 27 September, half day virtual workshop Part 2

COSHH Health Surveillance

Wed 4th October, half day virtual workshop Part 1
Wed 11th October, half day virtual workshop Part 2

Employment & Pre-Placement Health Assessment

Wed 18 October, half day virtual workshop Part 1
Wed 25 October, half day virtual workshop Part 2

Workshops & Events

Clinical Development for Occupational Health Professionals

[Book Now for remaining courses – see opposite](#)

Human Factor Onsite Training

Introduction to Resilience in the NHS, Onsite Training Workshop

Diversity Equality and Inclusion Onsite Training Workshops

Assertiveness & Self-Management Training Workshops

Putting the Patient First Onsite Training Workshops

Please contact info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk for more information.

Calling Sponsors!

- There is still limited availability to sponsor the **National District Nurses Conference** on Tuesday 28th November 2023, The Park Inn, Northampton

Please contact us to express interest and your details will be recorded.

e: info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

Contact Us

e: npagnews@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

w: npag.org.uk

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