



Welcome to the SEC Critical Care Newsletter

This is a bi-monthly publication and we would be pleased to receive any articles or information you would like to share with colleagues across the region.

Hello. I am **Mike Carraretto**, an Intensive Care Consultant from the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford, and I would like to introduce myself as the new **Medical Lead for the Network**.

The Critical Care Networks in Kent, Surrey and Sussex have become one Network as part of an improved restructuring. The fundamental role of the Network however has not changed. We still exist to promote the development and delivery of the best Critical Care service possible, in a standardised way, across the hospitals in our region. We will continue to build upon the shared learning, expertise and innovation that every unit across South East Coast has already been contributing for several years now.

I am very much looking forward to visiting all of you in your Intensive Care Units over the coming year or so, and working with you in order to continue to develop the high quality Critical Care service which already exists. I also look forward to welcoming you to the Clinical Forums, which I will be chairing on your behalf.

We have identified some key areas of work for the year ahead and some good opportunities for learning and innovation, but as always, the most important thing is that we want to hear from you about your challenges and successes, and share learning and solutions with the whole Critical Care community. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

See you all soon! **Mike Carraretto**

Thank you to our previous Clinical Leads

Thank you to Mansoor Sange, Melinda Brazier and Rhian Edwards who, as Clinical Leads for Kent, Surrey and Sussex, provided essential clinical leadership to the SEC CCN from the time it was first established in April 2013. They have helped to steer the network to a position where learning and best practice is shared across the whole region. The current network management team will endeavour to build on this work to foster on-going communication and collaboration.

Network Support Team **Please note Caroline Wilson's new telephone number**

Network Manager	Vanessa Attrell	vanessa.attrell@nhs.net	01903 708420
Deputy Manager	Caroline Wilson	caroline.wilson2@nhs.net	07917 613953
Data Administrator	Martin Webb	martin.webb@nhs.net	
Network Administrator	Sue Overton	sue.overton2@nhs.net	01903 708042
Clinical Lead	Dr Mike Carraretto	mike.carraretto@nhs.net	

SEC CCN Meeting Proposals

It is proposed that we consolidate working as a regional network by having joint SEC CCN clinical forums and sub group meetings.

The **Clinical Forums** are to be held three times yearly with a tandem meeting each time to make attendance a bit easier.

The dates are:

8th September - Medway Hospital

& 20th September - Ashted Hospital

11th January – Maidstone Hospital

& 26th January- venue at Princess Royal Hospital to be confirmed

All meetings 10.30 – 14.30

We intend, in time, to spread the venues around the region to balance travelling time for you all. The format of the meetings will be a two hour meeting, a one hour educational session and one hour professional group meeting. Please contact **caroline.wilson2@nhs.net** if you have anything of educational interest that you would like to present.

Rehabilitation group meeting — The rehabilitation and transfer sub groups will continue, again, now at regional level.

Transfer group meeting – 12th October 09.30 -12.00 venue to be confirmed

SEC CCN conference June 2016

Thank you to all of you who presented, contributed posters and attended our conference in June. It was a fantastic day with excellent speakers from within the network and from further afield. Presentations and posters can be found on the SEC CCN website so none of you need miss out.

<https://www.networks.nhs.uk/nhs-networks/south-east-coast-critical-care-network/learning/secccn-critical-care-conference-2016-1>

Pathways DoS

Can all units be reminded to update the Pathways Directory of Services daily please?

A review of the directory in order to inform a recent NHS South mass casualty exercise showed that updates are still a bit patchy. The system will be used to inform control centres in the event of a major incident so thank you for those of you who keep up to date.

Transfer update

Operational flowchart: this is to be updated in line with current contractual agreements with SECamb and PTS services. The flowchart will be circulated as soon as it has been confirmed.

Transfer Incidents

There have been two incidents where a private ambulance, dispatched by SECamb, was unable to take the critical care transfer trolley. This has been raised with SECamb but an immediate solution, due to sustained pressure on SECamb fleet vehicles, has not been identified. The emergency control centre staff will aim to send a fleet vehicle whenever possible but may default to a private vehicle at times of peak pressure in order not to delay transfer. Please discuss with the ambulance crew before transferring the patient.

Please continue to send details of transfer related incidents and outcome of investigation to caroline.wilson2@nhs.net

Update on new fleet vehicles - the time frame for the introduction of the new vehicles is not as soon as initially advised. A new specification vehicle will undergo a 6 month pilot from this autumn. We will work with SECamb to ensure the pilot involves critical care transfer. If successful, approximately 40 new vehicles will be commissioned in 2017.

Ferno critical care transfer trolleys – please check to ensure that these are serviced regularly. Ferno recommend visual inspection once a week and service at least annually.

Learning from incidents

The following incidents were reported at clinical forums in May and are worth sharing:

- a bionector become unattached from a CVC with resultant entrainment of air. The patient was initially acutely breathless but responded to management once the problem had been identified.

- an agency nurse removed a line, connected to a bag of noradrenaline, from an infusion pump without clamping or disconnecting from the patient. The patient had a brief episode of severe hypertension before a charge nurse very promptly saw what had happened and clamped it off. Later that day the lady developed an epidural haematoma and had to go to Kings for evacuation. It is not possible to say categorically that these two incidents were connected. The agency nurse was not familiar with the pump and had not declared competence with this equipment on the unit sign off sheet which all agency nurses are asked to complete. A full review of learning from this incident will be detailed in the SEC CCN Q1 Quality Report.

SEC CCN comment - the Critical Care National Nurse Lead group are developing Critical Care agency standards which detail the responsibilities of agencies, their staff and Trusts that employ them. Whilst it is unlikely they will be mandated, it is hoped that there will be a register of agencies that have signed up to the standards. However, how to guarantee competency when an agency nurse turns up for a first shift that is already very busy is of immediate concern. Any thoughts or suggestions to caroline.wilson2@nhs.net please.

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