



Dear all,

Nov 02

The response from ANNPs to the voluntary register has been exciting. As I write this 125 ANNPs have registered thus far. This represents a great opportunity for networking and communication for us all. I thought that in the new year I would email the register to you all to provide access for all who have registered. Those who wish to be confidential, this will be respected. Please email me if you have any objections to this proposal.

This newsletter contains a couple of reports from members and an update in prescribing. The committee are continuing to put together an exciting programme for the Conference next year, focusing around ANNP practice and research.

The register has the potential to deliver information to practitioners quickly and cheaply through email. I have sent emails to those who submitted an email address. If you have not received anything then it is possible that the gremlins have gotten into the address you have given. Can I suggest you email me alison.gibbs@ntlworld.com so I can clarify your address. I would like to use email for quick communication and to ease the financial burden for us all. If any of you haven't got email perhaps there is someone who could receive email on your behalf?

A number of you may have received an ANNP.uk letter on Chiesi headed paper. This was an error on their behalf and I am reassured that it will not happen again. It is a long story how it happened initially and I have had an apology. This has prompted a few actions though, to aid authenticity etc. The font for annp.uk is written in italics except the N's, Times New Roman and in mid blue. You'll notice too that this has been incorporated under the logo. The logo is available and can be emailed to you, if anyone requires it.

I hope this letter finds you all in good health. And to end with a corny quote in the words of Winston Churchill "never underestimate a minority"

Regards to all Alison

Study events

ANNP meeting held in Bristol, 5th and 6th September

The Bristol ANNP team would like to thank all those who attended the ANNP conference this September. All 70 places were taken, an estimated third of the total number of ANNPs in the UK having attended. The conference mainly concentrated on cardiology, but other topics such as prenatal interventions, radiological investigations and ANNP career progression were added for variety. Many thanks to our speakers who so

enthusiastically supported the conference. Nurse prescribing was also presented and caused a great deal of discussion. The conference was very well evaluated by delegates; the suggestions for future topics will be used when organising next year's meeting. The conference dinner was not formally evaluated, but appears to have been well-received - thank you to all those who sent cards and e-mails.

Approximately 40 of the delegates stayed on until the 6th September for an informal ANNP meeting. Topics raised were as follows

UK ANNP Group

Alison Gibbs (Nottingham) is currently compiling a register of ANNPs in order that a UK ANNP Group may be formed. She has 90 names so far, but many of the ANNPs at the meeting used the opportunity to give or up-date their details. She, with the support of CHESI, intend to produce a newsletter 4 times a year - this will give details of activities, ANNP news etc. Alison invites ANNPs to submit news for publication in the newsletter. The UK ANNP Group is organising an ANNP meeting to be held in May next year. ANNP groups represented at the Bristol meeting included those from Anglia, the North East, West Midlands, and the M25 Group

BLISS

Bonnie Green who is the Head of Professional and Public Affairs at BLISS told the meeting a little about the BLISS support for neonatal care. BLISS is supportive of the review in neonatal care. They are reviewing their policy re equipment supply (they were asked for £7,000,000 support in the last application period). BLISS intend to increase the support they give to parents and have produced a parent information guide that Bonnie showed the meeting - it will be supplied and delivered free to units requesting copies. She also high-lighted the concern BLISS has for staff recruitment, retention and career progression, and told the meeting of display material BLISS are setting up for newly qualified staff and of a series of study days on developmental care that are being organised by BLISS for next year. BLISS are aiming to improve consistency in standards around the country, and have being involved in the NSF framework for neonatal care. Andy Leslie is the ANNP representative with BLISS.

Nurse Prescribing

A hot topic at both the conference on the 5th, the meeting on the 6th and at a subsequent BAPM meeting. The DOH policies on nurse prescribing were outlined; most ANNPs at the conference appeared to have been unaware of the severe limitations. PGDs written exactly to Crown Report guidelines are legal but only allow nurses to give, not prescribe, drugs. A supplementary prescribing course appears to be the answer; we await the outcome of the consultation document - due October/November 2002.

Evaluation of the conference

We discussed the Bristol meeting and whether delegates would like the Bristol meeting to be held again next year - comments on the evaluation forms and made at the meeting on the 6th indicated that the Bristol meeting should be held again - delegates said that September/October time is good. A central theme, such as cardiology, accompanied by other topics, appeared to be popular - next year will possibly concentrate on the CVS or feeding/nutrition/complications. The accommodation was far from ideal (the Bristol ANNPs were subjected to it too!), but arrangements will be modified next year.

Thanks for report, supplied by Jennifer Kemp.

Recent Publications

These maybe of interest (*if anyone ever fancies doing a brief review of recent publications or knows of any which would be of interest to share please let me know*).

Redshaw,M. and Harvey,M. (2002) How clinicians in neonatal care see the introduction of neonatal nurse practitioners. *Acta Paediatr.* 2002 (91): 184-187.

Redshaw,M and Harvey,M. (2002) Working together: neonatal nurse practitioners in practice. *Acta Paediatr.* 2002 (91): 178-183.

Links

Feedback to ANNP Register members from RCN Neonatal and Paediatric Intensive Care Forum

On the 11th October 2002, I attended my first meeting of the above forum committee. These forums are a vehicle for reviewing and keeping up to date with political and professional issues within your chosen field. The forum steering committee consists of 7 members (including me...) and utilises the services of the RCN's Paediatric Advisor (Fiona Smith) to discuss a wide variety of issues that relate to practice and the families we care for. Many issues are political and there are often occasions where we supply information/evidence to a larger remit eg the RCN as an institution, the Department of Health and the House of Commons.

In addition the committee looks at ways of providing support and education to Forum members and also aims to promote N/PICU nursing. Presently the RCN is examining ANNP prescribing practices to provide weight and evidence for change.

Have you heard of about ESPNIC, the European Society of Paediatric and Neonatal intensive Care. This non-profit making interprofessional organisation aims to promote knowledge and practice to aid development of high quality N/PICU services across Europe. And last but not least, details of a new course 'Advancing Ventilatory Care Of Children and Neonates. This level 3 course (15 credits) is aimed at members of the multidisciplinary team in N/PICU, and will provide participants with the appropriate knowledge and skills to undertake advanced assessment of infants and children receiving mechanical ventilation, and independently provide holistic management of their ventilatory needs.

That's all for now, more to follow in the new year!

Debra Teasdale Debra.Teasdale@shc-tr.swest.nhs.uk

For Debra's full report which has more details about the forum & ESPNIC etc contact either Debra or myself.

News update

Prescribing.

There has been increasing concern about the use patient group directives (PGDs) in neonates. This concern is around the ordering of drugs that are prescribed outside of their manufacturers licence. The unacceptability of this practice has been emphasised by the DoH Regional Officers for the South West (Tina Billet) and West Midlands (Anthea Clegg). The vicarious liability provided by an employer may not be enough to protect the practitioner if the PGD is for "off label" use. Following this increased awareness around the use of PGDs a significant number of ANNPs have ceased to use PGDs.

Supplementary prescribing could have provided the answer but is recommended for patients focusing in 4 key areas, minor illness, minor injury, health promotion and palliative care, after a doctor's diagnosis.

Consequently supplementary prescribing may not meet the needs of ANNPs for neonates. These restrictions, the reduction in ANNPs using PGDs and lobbying has prompted some attention to turn our way.

Hence:-

The RCN is concerned about these implications in neonatal care. There is a survey running about ANNP practice (*emailed to those whom I could reach*). If you have not received this and would like to please email fiona.smith@rcn.org.uk

BAPM have written to the CNO expressing anxiety for the future development of neonatal services that prescribing restrictions could influence. Sarah Mullally has responded requesting more information about ANNPs and prescribing, on our behalf I will be working with BAPM to reply. (I will use email to gather info from ANNPs quickly, another good reason to be sure I have your email contact. I do not have Sarah Mullally letter on email but if you supply a fax number I can forward it via a fax. I think this is an exciting opportunity we have been given to voice the needs we have for our babies regarding prescribing. Thank you BAPM for your support in this matter.)

Forthcoming events

Chronic Lung Disease : Cracking the disease in the 21st Century. 2nd meeting. 10th & 11th feb.

Day 1 Defining CLD, Development of lung injury, Outcome & CLD, Advances in the field.

Day 2 Gentle ventilation, Surfactant today, therapies under interrogation, Beyond NNU.

EPICure and the challenge of extreme prematurity. 12th & 13th feb.

Day 1 Defining outcomes, Margins of viability.

Day 2 Infection, Disability, Childhood outcomes.

Costs Day 1 £300 + VAT.

Day 2 £275 + VAT

Discounts for attending both, 2nd person etc

Venue Nottingham

Speakers International

For more details contact julie.nash@medical-perspectives.co.uk

See attached flier for our own conference details.

Date 11th & 12th May. Venue J28, M1. Renaissance Hotel

The all inclusive cost will be under £199, precise costs awaiting confirmation.

And finally

If anyone would like to help with preparing this newsletter or has information for the next please contact

alison.gibbs@ntlworld.com

Area reps:-

S.W	Sharon Winterbottom	St Michaels	Bristol
S.E/ M25	Rowan Toyer	St Thomas	London
	Sandra Skinner	Royal Hampshire	Winchester
West Mids	Fiona Chambers	Wordsley	Stourbridge
Anglia	Erica King	Rosie	Cambridge
NE	Tracy Bateman	Hedon Rd	Hull