

11<sup>th</sup> October 2019

To: *Critical Care Unit Leads, Directors of Nursing and NHS Improvement*

**Re: Care hours per patient day (CHPPD)**

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to you on behalf of the UK Critical Care Nursing Alliance (UKCCNA) to express our concern regarding the recent publication from the NHS Improvement on CHPPD<sup>1</sup>.

We appreciate that CHPPD is developed and implemented to provide a single, consistent and nationally comparable way of recording and reporting deployment of staff on inpatient wards but its use in critical care setting is inappropriate as it is not validated for this setting. It is also unnecessary as nurse staffing standards in critical care already exist. The *Adult Critical Care Clinical Reference Group Service Specification (DO5)* (NHSE, 2019)<sup>2</sup> and the *Guidelines for the Provision of Intensive Care Services (ICS & FICM, 2019)*<sup>3</sup> provide clear guidance on this matter and they are well embedded within critical care service provision, quality and commissioning frameworks:

1. *Level 3 patients must have a registered nurse/patient ratio of a minimum 1:1 to deliver direct care.*
2. *Level 2 patients must have a registered nurse/patient ratio of a minimum of 1:2 to deliver direct care.*
3. *There must be a supernumerary (i.e. not rostered to deliver direct patient care to a specific patient) senior registered nurse who provides the supervisory clinical coordinator role on duty 24/7 in critical care units. Units with fewer than six beds may consider having a supernumerary clinical coordinator to provide the supervisory role during peak activity periods, e.g. early shifts.*
4. *Units with greater than ten beds must have additional supernumerary senior registered nursing staff over and above the supervisory clinical coordinator to enable the delivery of safe care (i.e. 11-20 beds +1, 21-30 beds +2, etc.). The number of additional staff per shift will be incremental depending on the size and layout of the unit (e.g. multiple pods/bays, single rooms). Consideration for the need of additional staff also needs to be given during events such as infection outbreak.*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/care-hours-patient-day-chppd-data/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/spec-services/npc-crg/group-d/d05/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ficm.ac.uk/standards-research-revalidation/guidelines-provision-intensive-care-services-v2>

I would also like to inform you that the *Study to Evaluate the Introduction of nurse Staffing Models in Intensive Care (SEISMIC)* is currently underway. The study is led by Professor Ruth Endacott in collaboration with UKCCNA and other partners. The project has been awarded the Programme Development Grant by the NIHR to explore nurse staffing considerations within critical care areas.

Therefore, until further evidence is available, we recommend that the commissioning standards and professional guidance detailed in *Adult Critical Care Clinical Reference Group Service Specification (DO5) (NHSE, 2019)*<sup>4</sup> and the *Guidelines for the Provision of Intensive Care Services (ICS & FICM, 2019)*<sup>5</sup> should be used to support safe and effective nursing care for patients in critical care units.

Kind Regards,



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Chair

United Kingdom Critical Care Nursing Alliance

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**The UK Critical Care Nursing Alliance is the overarching body representing all critical care nursing organisations across the UK including:**

*Royal College of Nursing,  
British Association of Critical Care Nurses,  
Critical Care Network – National Nurse Leads Forum (CC3N),  
National Outreach Forum,  
Intensive Care Society (N & AHP Committee),  
Paediatric Intensive Care Society.*

CC:

- Dr. Jane Eddleston *Chair, Clinical Reference Group for Adult Critical Care, NHSE.*
- Dr. Carl Waldmann *Chair, Critical Care Leadership Forum and Dean, The Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine.*
- Dr. Alison Pittard *Vice Dean, The Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine.*
- Dr. Ganesh Suntharalingam *President, Intensive Care Society.*

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/spec-services/npc-crg/group-d/d05/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ficm.ac.uk/standards-research-revalidation/guidelines-provision-intensive-care-services-v2>