

# EAST OF ENGLAND PAEDIATRIC CRITICAL CARE ODN

## Newsletter

Welcome to the East of England Paediatric Critical Care ODN December newsletter



## Website & Twitter

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## FEATURED ARTICLES

### Updates

- ODN Team Updates

## LIZ LANGHAM-DIRECTOR



A huge thank you to everyone for your engagement over the past year. There has been a huge amount of new and old education across both PCC and SIC. With the new pre assessment course being run for the first time, we have re-run both the PACU and EPAR courses which have evaluated well and will continue to be part of our yearly agenda.

Naomi and Francesca continue to support the level 1 course and the simulation sessions which again have been well received.

We welcomed Ronnie Misquith as the PCC clinical lead and Seema Sukhani as the new clinical education lead. They have hit the ground running and are making a difference. Within SIC we have said goodbye to Pranav who has been our anaesthetic lead, we wish him well and would like to thank him for the work he has done.

For SIC we have completed our service reviews, it is always a huge privilege to see the work which is done in each trust and see how proudly you present your services. With Eniko and Damian's help the ODN are able to show you data around improvement and this has been great to see.

There are challenging times ahead with the new 10 year plan to be published but with the hope that children are front and centre. Supporting the role out of Martha's rule and ensuring the voice of children is heard.

I want to say its great working with you all and hope you all have a great time at Christmas and have the opportunity to share time with your families.



# RONALD MISQUITH-LEAD CLINICIAN



Dear All,

My name is Ronald Misquith, or Ronnie, and I am a Paediatrician with an interest in Critical Care, Diabetes, and Endocrinology, working at Luton and Dunstable University Hospital. I have had the privilege of serving as the Clinical Lead for the PCC ODN since May of this year.

I've had the opportunity to interact with many of you in our PCC ODN COG meetings, as well as visit several units for peer reviews. Our collaborative efforts continue to improve the care of critically ill children through the development of standardized regional guidelines and SOPs. Many of you have shared challenging cases and situations during M&M meetings, generating productive discussions and valuable learning. I encourage more units and individuals to come forward and share their challenges to further enrich our collective learning.

This winter is proving to be even more challenging than previous ones, with increased demand for PICU beds and a significant rise in both activity and acuity at DGHs. We hope that by mid-December, we will have navigated the worst of it and can look forward to a well-deserved and restful festive season. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2025.

Warm regards,  
Ronnie



# ALISON CLARK- SENIOR LEAD NURSE



Looking back on 2024, we have had a varied and busy year across both ODNs!

Sadly we say goodbye to Naomi and thank her for her amazing support with our education programme. We look forward to welcoming a new PDN to our team in the new year! We are delighted that Eniko has taken on our Project Manager post and she is now keeping us all on track with our workplans! Naima has stepped in to the administrator role and is quickly learning about the workings of the ODNs. We welcomed Kat into the LTV educator post and she has been busy building links across the network and representing the EoE at the national ODN collaborative meetings as well as working on our regional LTV education. We look forward to hosting the national LTV conference next summer.

Our surgery in children network is very busy and I would like to thank Jess Bewick, Pranav Kukreja and Anish Sanghrajka for their support and enthusiasm leading the ENT, anaesthetic and T&O workstreams this year. Damian and Milind have continued to lead on some exciting pieces of work and have successfully completed service reviews for most units. We will be working on a rolling programme of service review follow ups over the coming months and look forward to seeing your progress.

We continue to work on the development of Level 2 PCC provision and I would like to thank the teams at Basildon and Luton for their hard work in setting up the first four beds in the region. We hope to complete the planning for the remaining capacity early in 2025 and hope that this will go some way to support CYP requiring HDU care. Ronnie Misquith joined us this year as our new PCC clinical lead and it is great to have his knowledge and experience in our team.

Our education programme continues to grow under the leadership of Francesca and we are delighted to have Seema Sukhani on board to support with the medical education.

## ALISON CLARK – SENIOR LEAD NURSE

I was very proud to see that across our team, we received three nominations for the annual CUH staff awards – Francesca and Eniko received individual nominations and the SiC network received a team nomination. It is great to see that our work is being acknowledged and congratulations to all!

We are already seeing winter across the region hitting hard with most units very busy. We hope that you all manage to get some time off with your friends and family over the festive period. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the work of the ODNs in 2024 and we look forward to working with you all next year! Have a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year. Alison





I can scarcely believe that it's Christmas in a few short weeks, except that I am writing this looking onto a frosty and snowy morning, and you are all experiencing respiratory surge with RSV really kicking in which means we are deep into winter.

We have had a busy year expanding the education offering in the region both for the paediatric critical care and surgery in children networks. I would hope that none of the detail included here is a surprise to you, if we are getting our publicising right! However, if you are reading this and are not receiving our emails / social media posts then do get in touch, and/or check out our website.

The PCC level 1 course continues to attract growing numbers year on year, and evaluate well, we hope that this is reflecting in more competent, confident practitioners in your workforce. The final cohort of 2024 tops out at 50 nurses; we are delighted to be working with the educator in the East Midlands ODN to offer some places to their colleagues and to support them with some level 1 education whilst they get their course up and running.

# FRANCESCA WRIGHT-EDUCATION LEAD NURSE

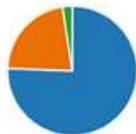
## NAOMI ROWELL-PDN LEAD

Having Naomi in the team increased our capacity, that meant we were able to run 5 of the SIM days this year that we had piloted in the autumn of 2023. Hamilton Ventilators once again sponsored which meant we were able to keep costs to £20 per person, and we were exceptionally grateful for the collaboration with the PaNDR nursing team in preparing and facilitating these days. 83 nurses from 10 trusts in the region attended one of these days, and enjoyed SIMs and skill stations on DOPES, sepsis (peripheral inotropes), seizures and the blue baby needing a Prostin infusion. We appreciate the reality that 83 nurses is a fraction of the workforce, we hope that your staff are coming back and sharing the lessons with their colleagues. It was interesting and helpful to have some adult ITU colleagues join us from units where the pathway is for the children to be managed in adult ITU. We worked hard to create a safe learning environment where people could relax and enjoy SIM and get the learning from it, we are delighted with the results of the evaluation, with 100% of respondents saying they would recommend the day to a colleague. I would like to thank Hamilton and PaNDR for working with us on these days.

11. How much do you agree with the following statement:  
The learning environment felt like a safe space for learning and I felt comfortable to participate

More Details Insights

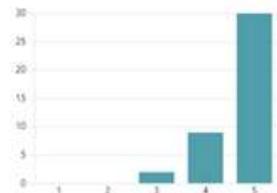
Strongly agree	31
Agree	9
Neutral	1
Disagree	0
Strongly disagree	0



13. How highly would you rate the SIM day for improving your confidence when dealing with Stabilisation of sick children?

More Details Insights

4.68  
Average Rating



Look out for 6 SIM days in 2025 and the addition of 2 LTV SIM days kindly put together by Kat.

We were also able to bring education, including SIM to you. We are seeing an increase in the requests for SIM and are building our own experience and happy to bring our SIM Baby 'Marley' to you for in situ SIM, get in touch if this is something you would like to explore in 2025. Also happy to bring anything PCC related to team updates, preceptorships sessions etc.

# FRANCESCA WRIGHT-EDUCATION LEAD NURSE

## NAOMI ROWELL-PDN LEAD

Speaking of getting in touch, in 2024 we introduced the QR code for a form to request education from the ODN, this has worked really well, to date 59 requests have come to us via that form, it really helps us keep tabs on what we are up to. We of course continue to receive emails asking for our help, so we would like to encourage the use of the form...

<https://forms.office.com/e/V0w0jJaxRM>



Naomi and I were very fortunate to attend the PCCS Conference in Liverpool in October and it was great to fly the flag for ODNs and for paediatric critical care being delivered in level 1 and level 2 units, in my feedback I have requested a stronger representation for DGH critical care at future events. The opportunity to network with our national colleagues and meet up with old colleagues was fantastic; we also managed to see the famous Liver Building lit in red for a Liverpool Football Club Champions League win!

The Healthy Leadership course continues and currently has 20 delegates working through the 15 topics. We will run this course twice in 2025 so please think about your staff who are starting to take on leadership roles, (perfect for new band 6 or band 7 without previous leadership instruction) to have some time to think about aspects of leadership that arise daily in our units.



The surgery in children network has also increased its educational offering this year, we had the neurosurgery webinar, and the nursing foundations study day. Our PACU received interest from delegates outside of east of England and is now being offered to other ODNs to run in their region. We took the Pre Assessment course offered for national roll out by the Thames Valley & Wessex ODN and ran that for us and east Midlands. We plan to run one cohort of each in 2025. Our thanks to Katie Bagstaff who coordinates the PACU course in its entirety and prepared the course for national roll-out. We presented the course at APAGBI (oral presentation by Katie) and SEA UK (poster presentation).

Alongside the Pre Assessment working group, we have taken the opportunity to adopt the Pre Assessment Course offered by the Thames Valley & Wessex ODN in partnership with the east Midlands network. We see strength in combining forces for delivery of these courses as it adds depth and resilience. We plan to run one cohort of this course in 2025, if you or anyone you know would like to find out more about what is involved, please sign up to our webinar on 27/02/25  
<https://forms.office.com/e/iu0DecCJxA>



I could not deliver any of this education in the region without the help, support and engagement of a large number of people, I can't start to name them for fear of leaving somebody out, it really is a team sport. I would however, like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Naomi for all she has enable the network to deliver. Naomi's attention to detail (trait of a PICU nurse!) exceptional organisational and timekeeping skills and calm demeanour has been a huge asset to our team. Naomi is returning to PICU as a senior educator and they are very lucky to be getting her back however, we haven't let her go completely – she will return to help on our SIM days in 2025 and I am sure will remain a friend of the ODN. Naomi, thank you, good luck, and enjoy your new challenge. On behalf of the education team here I would like to extend our very best wishes for the festive season, I hope you all manage to spend some time with your loved ones. Happy new year 2025.



# KATHERINE FITZPATRIC-LTV LEAD NURSE



Dear all,

Thanks so much for welcoming me to the role and region since I started with the team in July this year. It has been a pleasure to meet you all, come to your areas and see the excellent care you provide. Over these last few months I have been trying to get to know all of you and your areas, and trying to establish the training need for Long Term Ventilation across the region – thank you for your help with this. I have done LTV training sessions in some centres, as well as facilitating a train the trainer course, and have further training planned for 2025. We have also started a fortnightly clinician's LTV forum with Addenbrooke's to support knowledge, information sharing and LTV patient care across the region.

Looking ahead to next year, I have training and updates planned in multiple centres already and am pleased to be offering a regional LTV simulation day on 29th May and 4th September – please get in touch if you'd like to book on and keep an eye out for further information on this. We have been using the education request code to request LTV teaching, and I have been working to disseminate a patient specific referral form for you to request patient specific, timely teaching for your areas expecting or aware of LTV patients.

LTV patient information sharing:



Request for teaching from the PCC ODN  
(Including LTV!)

We have worked hard to establish a network of LTV Champions across the region and this work is ongoing – if you know of anyone who has a background in or passion for LTV who would like to maintain their skills and knowledge and take on an educational role in their area please do encourage them to join our mailing list for information, invitations to the forums and study days and more!



In summary, I'm really pleased to be in the role and working with you all to promote and support the care of LTV patients across the region, and look forward to working with you all further in 2025. Wishing you a restful and merry season!



# EAST OF ENGLAND SURGERY IN CHILDREN ODN

## Newsletter

Welcome to the East of England Paediatric Critical Care ODN December newsletter



East of England  
Surgery in  
Children  
Operational Delivery Network

Collaborative working to deliver high quality care to our children and their families

## Website & Twitter

Please use the QR codes below to follow us on twitter or to visit our website



## FEATURED ARTICLES

### Updates

- ODN Team Updates



There has been some fantastic work in and engagement with the Orthopaedic workstream this year. We have helped facilitate mutual aid from one trust in the region for another that has had significant outpatient waits- 150 patients were seen over three days!

The AHP group, led by Roberta Wakely from the James Paget Hospital, has continued to develop their toolkit for education/training, and continue regular online meetings to discuss cases. They presented their work at one of the national ODN meetings, where it was received well.

The Clubfoot regional audit group, led by Jenny Kemp and Liz Ashby from Cambridge University Hospitals, continues to have good engagement from the Ponseti practitioners from across the region. The group had their first face to face meeting in September, with attendees from most trusts in the region. As well as discussing the audit results and difficult cases, there were discussions about aspects of clubfoot management. The group hope to have a family day for patients from across the region in the new year, so watch this space for more information!

We were also given the opportunity to present two pieces of our ODN's orthopaedic workstream at the national annual ODN meeting that was held in Birmingham in November, which were well received.

Soon to go live is the regional audit for operations for developmental dysplasia of the hip. These can be some of the most complex surgical procedures performed in paediatric orthopaedics, and with a few trusts in the region performing them; the regional audit will help demonstrate high standards of care for our patients.

Do remember, we have published guidance's for the region on the management of complex trauma in children, and also perioperative management of the child with neuromuscular disease undergoing major orthopaedic surgery.

# DAMIAN GRIFFITHS-LEAD NURSE



The past year has seen the Surgery in Children ODN visit 16 out of 17 provider sites, which has been a great opportunity to meet teams, walking both the emergency and elective CYP journey, supporting recommendations through the self-assessment framework. We have heard how some centres are establishing paediatric surgical forums or re-starting them post pandemic, to flourishing examples receiving executive attendance and feedback via a children's board. With many competing demands upon providers, we look forward to sharing the spread of continuous improvement via the Clinical Oversight Group and continued engagement via the self-assessment review framework. More importantly, the visits have identified areas of outstanding practice and innovation that teams have shared across the network. There has been a real value to visiting you, your teams and learning about both the challenges and local solutions.

I would like to thank Ms. Jessica Bewick for the direction within the ENT workstream, the targeted work and support to the Elective Recovery Oversight Group has provided learning which can be applied cross-specialty. Wishing Pranav Kukreja good luck in the role of Clinical Director and stepping down as the anaesthetists workstream lead, I would like to thank Pranav for bringing clinical expertise and support to the workstream. Current work is progressing within the anaesthetists working group and we look forward to carrying on the existing workstream actions to deliver outcomes on MRI pathways and pre-operative assessment to complement the pre-assessment working group which runs as a community of practice.

# DAMIAN GRIFFITHS-LEAD NURSE

The face-to-face General surgery and urology event on 20th September chaired by the SIC ODN clinical lead, Prof. Milind Kulkarni, provided good discussion and will feed in to the 2025/26 work plan, demonstrating the value of network engagement. More details can be found within the November Surgery in Children newsletter, along with a Trauma and Orthopaedics update with details on the upcoming DDH audit planned by Mr Anish Sanghrajka, T&O Workstream lead. The T&O AHP and ESP working group has been spearheaded by Bobby Wakeley and Fran Sutton, and we wish Fran the very best in her next adventures – the Study Pod continues to run providing a forum for AHPs and ESPs within T&O, with the CTEV audit having been presented nationally by Jenny Kemp on the National Surgery in Children meeting and Lead Nurse Forum.

See: [Newsletters - East of England Surgery in Children ODN - FutureNHS Collaboration Platform](#) Keep up to date with the latest information via FutureNHS.

Data has, and continues to be a strong topic within surgery, not only tracking elective improvement, more importantly in highlighting areas of variation where targeted work should focus. Eniko has been pivotal in providing and interrogating this data, and I hope this continues to be useful to clinicians who may not have readily access to waiting list data and Model Hospital data. Welcoming Eniko into the project manager role puts the ODN in a stronger position to track and monitor progress, delivering on the work plan. I encourage network members to contact the ODN with areas of concern, focus or where support is required. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and invaluable to the network.

**EoE SIC ODN Newsletter**  
Stay in the loop with the latest updates  
Issue 04 | November 24

- CTEV away day
- General Surgery and Urology focus
- Working group updates
- Network events
- ODN 2025 course dates

### What's New

Latest updates from the SIC ODN

#### CONGENITAL TALIPES EQUINO VARUS (CTEV) AWAY DAY

On the 27th September, our Orthopaedic colleagues had their first face to face meeting of the CTEV (Clubfoot) regional peer audit group.

The meeting was hosted by the leaders of the audit group, Jenny Kemp, Specialist Physiotherapist, and Elizabeth Ashby, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, from Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge. There was great attendance, with an engaged audience of physiotherapists and consultants from across the region present.

Audit data for the year so far was presented and discussed. There was then a difficult case discussion, particularly focusing on cases that were deemed to be outliers in terms of progress and numbers of casts. There were then discussions about the outcomes to be assessed in the future, further data collection (eg holding casts) and about clinical aspects of clubfoot management such as the indications & post-operative management for Tibialis Anterior Tendon Transfer. A peer support group was also introduced for real-time help with tricky cases.

Plans are afoot (pun not intended, but highlighted!) for a patient and family fun day at Cambridge football club, which were warmly welcomed by all.

Mr. Anish Sanghrajka, Consultant Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon & ODN workstream lead

# DAMIAN GRIFFITHS-LEAD NURSE

At the engagement event in June, we asked what your understanding of the ODN was:



# DAMIAN GRIFFITHS-LEAD NURSE

The responses to this align with items on the SIC workplan. However, with a small team we are mindful of the size of the workplan and will continue to evaluate this along with outcomes via the quarterly COG, reviewing the key issues facing teams on the ground. Having commenced a secondment to the GIRFT CYP team two days per week, I hope to bring back valuable experience and learning to the East of England.

The education team, Francesca who is employed as PCC ODN Education Lead Nurse, has delivered a package of paediatric surgical education to benefit the network, I continue to hear how valuable this is to network members and thank those contributing to network education via study days which is invaluable. Along with Katie Bagstaff running the PACU course, which has incredibly been offered for national roll out following the success of the course. Having visited the successful model of testicular torsion wetlabs within South Thames Paediatric Network we look forward to upcoming torsion wet labs which will complement work around the torsion pathways as we investigate 111 pathways and engage with radiology networks.

Thank you for your continued engagement, support to each other across the network and contributions to the ODN, we look forward to working closely with you in 2025 and beyond.

Best wishes,  
Damian