

## Care of the Critically Ill - NECSS

The second *Care of the Critically Ill* seminar was held at Batemans Bay on September 5-6. The 96 registrants were kept very busy under the revised two day format which included 14 lectures and 10 skill stations. The majority of participants were nurses however there was a small number of allied health (ambulance and physiotherapist). Most of the nurses were registered nurses. It appears that clinicians are willing to travel as only 57% of participants came from GSAHS.

The seminar was evaluated using a pre and post multiple choice quiz (MCQ) plus evaluation forms completed by participants. Each session was evaluated against two criteria using a five point Likert scale. More than 80% of participants agreed that the lectures and skill stations were presented well and that the session improved their understanding of the topic (see tables 1 and 2). This was reflected by significant improvement in MCQ scores from the pre test (mean 60.8%, SD 18%) to post test (mean 83.3%SD 6.2%) [p=0.000] with an average improvement of 12.4% (SD 8.33%).

Figure 1: Participants n= 96

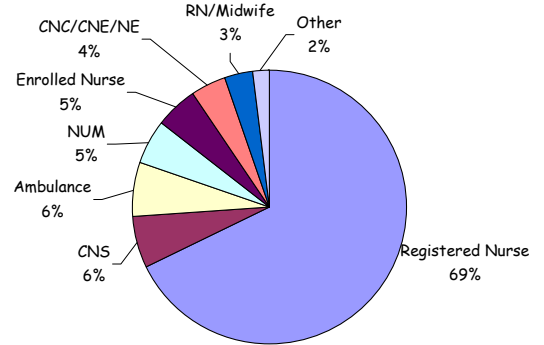
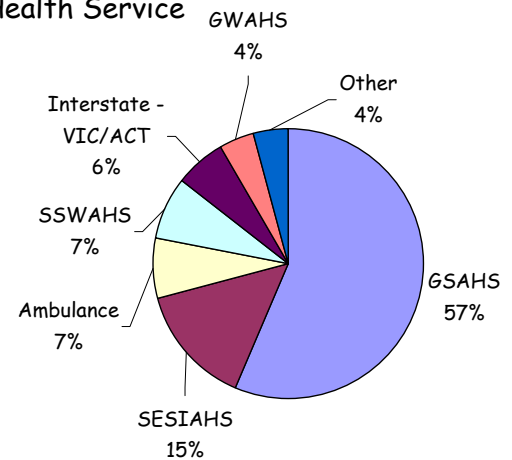


Figure 2: Area Health Service



Criteria %	The speaker presented the concepts in an easily understood manner	This session increased my understanding of this topic.
Disagree strongly	0	0.1
disagree	0.5	0.6
neutral	4.1	5.7
agree	36	35
strongly agree	60	59
	100	100

% of participants	The speaker presented the concepts in an easily understood manner	This session increased my understanding of this topic.
Disagree strongly	0.3	0.3
disagree	1	2.7
neutral	15	15
agree	32	31
strongly agree	52	51
	100	100

## Useful Websites:

### ▪ National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel.

This panel of clinicians aims to improve patient outcomes related to pressure ulcer prevention through public policy, education and research. The website offers a limited amount of information however the Resources section has a number of useful items. The Panel has revised pressure ulcer stages over the past five years using a consensus conference. The newsletter for Spring 2007 provides an overview of the stages. Unfortunately whilst an extensive bibliography can be found within the Resources section there is not a literature review available to support the new staging of pressure areas.

<http://www.npuap.org/>

### ▪ Medical Calculators

Does converting mmHg to cm H<sub>2</sub>O, or kPa to PSI get you down? Cornell University Paediatric Critical Care has created a series of medical calculators to help out the mathematically challenged and/or time poor clinicians. Place this website in your Favourites box for the next time you need to convert from one measurement to another or carry out other vexing calculations.

<http://www-users.med.cornell.edu/~spon/picu/calc/index.htm>

### ▪ Intensive Care Society United Kingdom

This website has been redeveloped and offers a limited range of information for the non-UK intensive care professional. Using the links in the upper left column navigate to "ICM Professionals". This generates a new list of links. Under Standards and Guidelines you will find:

1. Detection, prevention and treatment of delirium in Critically Ill Adults; and

2. Evaluation of spinal injuries in unconscious victims of blunt polytrauma; guidance for critical care.

<http://www.ics.ac.uk/index.asp>

## Something to consider

Gedge E, Giamcomini M, Cook D. Withholding and withdrawing life support in critical care settings: ethical issues concerning consent. *Journal of Medical Ethics* 2007;**33**(4):215-8.

This article considers how withholding or withdrawing of intensive care interventions are often considered morally equivalent yet there can be vast differences between how information is presented to relatives. The authors consider how this effects the power, consent and burden of decision making between relatives (or proxies) and intensive care clinicians.

[Weblink](#)

### **In-services:**

Has your unit had an inservice yet?

Do you want another inservice?

Please contact: **Kaye Rolls**

☎ 02 4734 1489 / 4734 1585

@ [Rollsk@wahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Rollsk@wahs.nsw.gov.au)

***Sorry for NSW & ACT members only***

## Trauma Guidelines from NSW ITIM

Four Adult Trauma Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) have been developed by NSW Institute of Trauma and Injury Management (ITIM). These are:

1. Management of haemodynamically unstable patients with a pelvic fracture;
2. Emergency airway management in the trauma patient;
3. Management of hypovolaemic shock in the trauma patient; and
4. Initial management of closed head injury in adults.

These have been distributed across NSW in recent months. Electronic copies of the guidelines are also available from the ITIM website [www.itim.nsw.gov.au](http://www.itim.nsw.gov.au) using *ITIM Trauma Guidelines* link in the main menu

Three new Adult Trauma CPG's are currently in the final stages of development and are due for release next year. These include:

1. Anterior abdominal stab wounds;
2. Faciomaxillary trauma; and
3. Compartment syndrome.

For any enquiries regarding the Adult Trauma CPG's, please contact Glenn Sisson as NSW ITIM on (02) 8877 5396 or [gssisson@nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gssisson@nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au)

## International Guidelines

Playfor S et al Consensus Guidelines for sustained neuromuscular blockade in children. The United Kingdom Paediatric Intensive Care Society Sedation, Analgesia and Neuromuscular Blockade Working Group, *Paediatric Anaesthesia*; **17**(9): 881-7.

## New from National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC) USA

CDC has released updates of guidelines for isolation precautions aimed at preventing transmission of infectious agents in healthcare settings.

1. Administrative responsibilities.

[http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?view\\_id=1&doc\\_id=10983](http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?view_id=1&doc_id=10983)

2. Education and training.

[http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?view\\_id=1&doc\\_id=10984](http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?view_id=1&doc_id=10984)

3. Protective environment.

[http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?view\\_id=1&doc\\_id=10988](http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?view_id=1&doc_id=10988)

4. Standard precautions.

[http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?view\\_id=1&doc\\_id=10986](http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?view_id=1&doc_id=10986)

5. Surveillance.

[http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?view\\_id=1&doc\\_id=10985](http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?view_id=1&doc_id=10985)

6. Transmission-based precautions.

[http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?view\\_id=1&doc\\_id=10987](http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?view_id=1&doc_id=10987)

Recommendations for the standardization and interpretation of the electrocardiogram. Part I: the electrocardiogram and its technology. A scientific statement from the American Heart Association Electrocardiography and Arrhythmias Committee, Council on Clinical Cardiology; the American College of Cardiology Foundation; and the Heart Rhythm Society. Endorsed by the International Society for Computerized Electrocardiology.

[http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?view\\_id=1&doc\\_id=10793](http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?view_id=1&doc_id=10793)

## New from National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) UK





*Triage, assessment, investigation and early management of head injury in infants, children and adults.* There are a number of guidelines and tools related to Head injury which can be found at the weblink. <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG56>

*Alteplase for the treatment of acute ischaemic stroke.*

Technology appraisal

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA122>

## For Your Diary:

- **2007 ANZICS/ACCCN Intensive Care ASM**  
**Monitoring the Future**  
25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> October 2007  
Rotorua, New Zealand  
Website:  
<http://www.intensivecareasm.com.au/content/view/2/25/>
- **Trauma Evening - Liverpool Hospital**   
16 October 2007 4.30-8.00pm  
Contact: Glenn Sisson NSW ITIM  
[gsisson@nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gsisson@nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au)  
02 8877 5396 
- **Rural Trauma Education - Narrabri**  
16 November 2007 8.00-4.30pm  
Contact: Sharon Lown NSW ITIM 02 9887 5725  
Lin Davis CNC HNEAHS - 0428 541 629
- **Australian Health Emergency Coordinators' Conference**  
15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> November 2007  
Newcastle  
Contact: David Carbonell - 08 9224 8590 or  
[David.carbonell@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:David.carbonell@health.wa.gov.au)  
Linda Winn - 02 4922 3412 or  
[Linda.winn@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Linda.winn@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au)  
Louise Barker Allner - 02 9926 6335 or  
[lbarker@nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lbarker@nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au)
- **Joanna Briggs Institute International Convention - Pebbles of Knowledge: Evidence for Excellence**  
26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> November 2007  
Hyatt Regency, Adelaide  
Website:  
<http://www.joannabriggs.edu.au/events/2007Convention/index.html>
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Australasian Symposium on Critical Care Nephrology**  
28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007  
St. Kilda Novotel Hotel, Melbourne  
Website:  
<http://www.austin.org.au/nephrologyconference.htm> 
- **Austrauma 2008 at Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre**   
15-16 February 2008  
Emergency Workshop Day February 14  
Website:  
<http://www.austraumaconference.org/>
- **Critical Care Conference in the Vineyards**  
**"Call for Abstracts"**  
17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> April 2008 - Hunter Valley, Newcastle  
Abstracts to be submitted by: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November  
Contact: Jane O'Brien OR Karen Chronister  
0438 476 907
- **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Institute of Continuing Education - ICE ACCCN**  
Brisbane, June 2008. Further details will be included as they are available.  
  
All web and email addresses were correct at time of publication  
  
Edited by Di Kowal & Kaye Rolls  
Intensive Care Coordination & Monitoring Unit (ICCMU)  
PO Box 63, Penrith NSW 2751  
Tel: (02) 4734 1585 Fax: (02) 4734 1586  
Email: [iccmu@wahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:iccmu@wahs.nsw.gov.au)