

MAY 2018

NEWSLETTER



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**Special points
of interest:**

- **MSN risk register**
- **Family held records**
- **Curo caps**
- **CCLG Telephone triage tool**
- **Education roadshow for community HCPs**
- **NES paediatric psychology educational programme**

Welcome from the New MSN Nurses Chair, Ali Hall

" I would like to introduce myself and say hello as the new chair of the MSN Nurses group. Some staff across Scotland have met me before both through a CLIC Sargent secondment that Angela Russell (in Edinburgh) , Carole Campbell (Aberdeen - now London) and myself did and also from my days staffing in Edinburgh (on the old ward 5 and subsequently Ward 4). Since around 2002 I have been a POONS here Glasgow. My aim for the MSN group is to improve the patient and families experience of care throughout their journey and to enhance the work life of staff through information, communication and sharing of good practise. Increasingly there is movement between the centres for specialised treatments in acknowledgment of the fact that it is hard for front line staff to attend MSN Nurses group meetings we hope these Newsletters will help you to feel informed about the work of the group and changes that are afoot. Please get in touch with me on ali.hall@ggc.scot.nhs.uk if there is anything you would like to group to look at or share with your colleagues across Scotland. In particular I have been asked by the MSN Board for ways in which we can address the predicted shortfall in Paediatric Nurses and how to enhance recruitment and retention of Paediatric Haematology/Oncology Nurses within Scotland - all ideas are welcome! Thank you Ali Hall "



**MSN Neuro-
oncology study
day: 14th
September 2018,
Edinburgh
Book via
[www.youngcancer.
scot.nhs.uk](http://www.youngcancer.scot.nhs.uk)**

www.youngcancer.scot.nhs.uk

MSN Risk Register

Recent report from highlighted risks facing nationally:

- National issues due to shortage of haematology/oncology nurses
- Staff facing pressures not receiving appropriate breaks, access to courses and educational updates
- Lack of MSN presence nationally
- CCLG meeting, talk about opportunities arising in Scotland and nationally address Scottish risk register.
- AHPs highlighted shortage of dietetics in Lothian on risk register
- MSN highlighted need for neuro-oncology nurse specialist
- Psychology are looking for a nurse representative
- TYA planning Wayforward programme is a TCT funded 2 day event in September
- CNS TCT job sharing in Aberdeen, post in Dundee and Edinburgh post to come up soon as band 7.
- Aftercare no meeting so no update
- Palliative care no MDT, video conference is last Thursday of each month

	Medium	High	Critical
Severity	Low	Medium	High
	Low	Low	Medium
	Likelihood		

Family held records

Family held record were introduced to keep parents and children fully informed about their child's care. It was designed to be kept in a bag that the child and family can bring to appointments with them and used to document blood results and central venous care. Can all staff please promote use of these records as this is a great tool for families to use especially between different centres

Education Roadshow for Community Health-care professionals

A short 30min information video for community professionals has been filmed alongside the TYA Nurses, AHP and Psychosocial Work streams to inform our community colleagues about the "World of cancer care in the CYP age group" along with brief information on red flags and whom to contact in the event they are working with a CYP with Cancer and have any queries. The final edit is yet to be done but we hope to launch it at the MSN Education Day and thereafter it will be available in the Professionals area of the MSN Website and for any of us to use if we are speaking to a group of community professionals e.g. at a study day.



“Green is Clean” Curoso® port protectors



Background

Due to concerns about the central line associated blood stream infection (CLABSI) rate in the haematology and oncology unit at the Royal hospital for Children (RHC) Glasgow, a multi-disciplinary quality improvement collaborative was established in May 2017, comprising key stakeholders from across all disciplines involved in the care of children with cancer. Together, we embarked on an ambitious QI project aiming to use the iterative process and rapid cycle methodology to reduce the CLABSI rate in the unit to less than 1 per 1000 total line days by December 2018. Workstreams were defined and each group tasked with examining and improving 4 key areas of practice - insertion and access in theatre, access and maintenance, staff education and training, and patient and carer engagement.

One key change of practice has been the introduction of Curoso® port protectors to ensure that every needle free access (NFA) device (eg. Vadsite, Smartsite) is protected at all times.

Why was this important to us?

A key driver to adopt Curoso® port protectors to our maintenance bundle was to make it easy for frontline staff to do the right thing. A review of our own practice, supported by the literature, suggested that marked variation in practice exists with regard to the application of the ‘scrub the hub’ technique in conventional ‘active disinfection’ of NFA devices. Suboptimal disinfection increases bacterial colonisation. Each Curoso® cap contains a 70% isopropyl alcohol impregnated sponge which passively disinfects the NFA device, achieving a **10⁻⁵ log reduction in bacterial counts after 1 minute** (Vygon, 2013). As a result, Curoso® port protectors effectively eliminate the variability of the “scrub the hub” technique. Each cap can be left undisturbed for up to 7 days, providing a physical barrier to bacterial contamination from the patient’s own skin, stomas and gastrostomy tubes and also from environmental contamination during showering/bathing.

Currently, each child with a central line managed in the unit, is given a supply of the Curoso® port protectors to take home with them. These are intended for use by healthcare professionals in the referring hospitals across the shared care network after repatriation. Prior to discharge from RHC, each patient (if appropriate), parent and carer receive extensive Curoso® training and written guidance on the safe use of the caps. In addition, Vygon have offered to provide local training for healthcare professionals in every unit which manages children with cancer in Scotland.

We feel that the introduction of Curoso® caps has been one of several key factors which have helped reduce our CLABSI rate. The caps have also been successfully introduced into a variety of different clinical environments both within RHC, Glasgow and at other Glasgow hospitals. The literature suggests that where **adequate compliance** with the caps is achieved, most units have seen at least a 30% reduction in CLABSI rates. The importance of compliance cannot be overstated and it is our hope, that all repatriated children from across the MSN for Children and Young People with Cancer, will remain compliant with the caps to enable continuity of care, avoid confusion across sites and reduce the risk of bacterial contamination of their CVLs. Further training and information is available from Vygon on request (Ian Heath or Jason Ram) and we would be delighted to come and share the results of the QI project in more detail with you. In the first instance, please contact Mr Tim Bradnock (Consultant Paediatric surgeon) (Timothy.Bradnock@ggc.scot.nhs.uk) or Kathleen Thomson (Senior nurse in QI) (Kathleen.thomson@ggc.scot.nhs.uk) for further information.