

NNNG update



Claire Campbell
Chair of the NNNG

Plans are well underway for the 2019 NNNG conference in June. We are excited by the programme and are sure you will be too.

Please visit the NNNG website for more information about the programme so far, early bird rates, reduced rates for NNNG members and registration details. The submission for poster entries is now open, so if you have undertaken an audit, service development project or piece of research, why not share this at conference with a poster presentation? Sharing practice, innovative ways of working, challenges and successes not only aids our own learning but helps us to continue to meet the diverse needs of our patients. So, it's time to put pen to paper and enter your work.

The NNNG were thrilled to be invited to the parliamentary roundtable group in February following on from work with the Royal College of Nursing (RCN). The roundtable invited members from all disciplines, across primary and secondary care, to discuss the use of foods for medical purposes. A formal write up will be available in the next NNNG Newsletter.

Work on our best practice guidelines continues; with exit site management for gastrostomy due out soon, these continue to be a useful resource for members. We are also working on some workshop study days which we hope to bring to you towards the end of the summer. Please visit the website for updates. The professional discussion forum continues to provide answers to questions such as jejunal tube changes in the community, staff competencies and much more, so why not join us, log-in and take part in the discussion?

Nutrition and Hydration Week is just around the corner and whilst we would all advocate the importance of this for life not just for a week, this can be an opportunity to focus the mind and reflect on current practice. The role of the nurse as health promoter, patient advocate and advisor are essential. Whether in the community or acute hospital setting, the nurse should be considering factors that may be impacting on that individual's nutrition and hydration status, not just in ill-health but in wellness too. The messages around food and drink to the wider community are mixed, varied and confusing. Access to food for many is not a given, the use of foodbanks is increasing across the UK, with a reported 13% increase in 2017 compared with 6% in 2016 (Trussell Trust). With so many aspects of nutrition and hydration, from foodbanks to the 'obesity crisis', and those on artificial nutrition and hydration, there is a great deal for us to consider. Nurses need to be aware of these factors, to screen, act and refer. Think outside the tick box, it can often be more complicated than it first appears.

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