



**National  
Clinical  
Programme in  
Emergency  
Medicine**

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[emp@rcsi.ie](mailto:emp@rcsi.ie)

The working group of the Emergency Medicine Programme (EMP) would like to update you on the programme after the long period that has elapsed since the last Newsletter. There are a lot of active work streams and collaborations, so we plan to keep in touch with the Emergency Medicine community through a series of bulletins each year. We hope you find this useful and welcome all comments on how we can improve it.

Contacts are listed below for each of the featured work streams and we encourage you to make contact and get involved. We would like to hear your feedback on the Programme, or any aspect of Emergency Medicine and work in the general emergency setting .

**Gerry McCarthy, Clinical Lead, National Emergency Medicine Programme**  
([emp@rcsi.ie](mailto:emp@rcsi.ie))

### **Emergency Department (ED) Workforce Planning Framework for Nursing in Ireland**

The EMP is happy to announce that The Emergency Department Nursing Workforce Planning Framework is currently awaiting final publication.

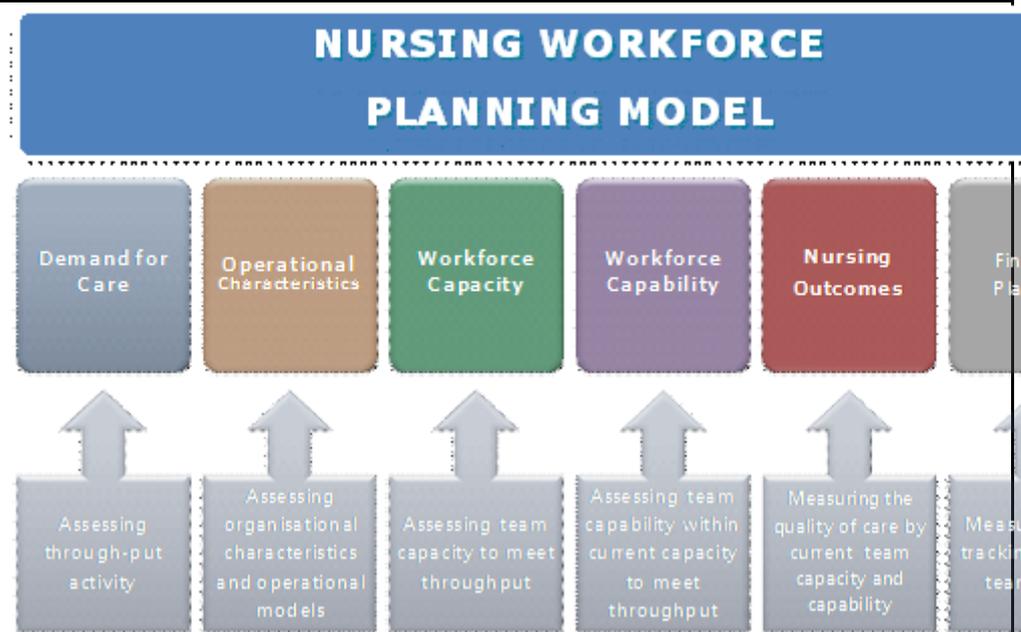
The framework consists of three elements

1. A report of the literature outlining national and international evidence of best practice in the area of workforce planning in emergency departments
2. A toolkit which will provide a step by step approach, resources, 'handy hints' and applied examples from observed best practice that will guide ED nurse managers in determining appropriate utilisation of nursing and support staff within emergency settings
3. An education programme outline (workshop) to develop knowledge and awareness amongst staff to implement the framework

The aim of the framework is to support and standardise workforce planning across EDs nationally and to serve as a guide to support senior ED nurse managers and their team to assess and plan their nursing (and support staff) workforce to meet the needs of their individual services.

This national framework was led by the Office of Nursing and Midwifery Services Director (ONMSD), at the request of the EMP Working Group, and supported by the RCSI Institute of Leadership.

Contact: Susanna Byrne, Nursing and Midwifery Planning & Development,  
[susanna.byrne1@hse.ie](mailto:susanna.byrne1@hse.ie)



**The Emergency Department Monitoring and Clinical Escalation tool (ED MACE)**

The Emergency Department Monitoring and Clinical Escalation tool (ED MACE) has been developed in response to concerns that ED patients are at risk of clinical deterioration between the time they have been triaged and the time they are assessed by a Treating Clinician and that there may be a delay in recognising this deterioration if the patient is not appropriately monitored. It is also a specific recommendation in the Tallaght-HIQA Report. These patients have undifferentiated presentations, with the potential for rapid change in their physiological status and have often only been formally assessed once in the ED i.e. at triage. ED MACE aims to reduce the risk of a patient’s clinical deterioration going unnoticed in the ED setting. It cannot address the root cause of this risk. The tool has been designed to interface seamlessly with the Manchester Triage System which is the nationally recommended ED triage approach for adult patients.

ED MACE has been developed as a tool through extensive consultation with ED nurses, medical and administrative staff. It has been designed to interface seamlessly with the National Early Warning Score, should a patient go on to admission and has undergone extensive testing and piloting across a number of rural and urban Emergency Departments. The final version of the tool has been tested on over 2,200 patient episodes.

In September 2015, the National Clinical Effectiveness Committee (NCEC) prioritised the development of ED MACE as a national clinical guideline. The guideline process supplements and enhances the work undertaken to date on Emergency Department Monitoring and Clinical Escalation (ED MACE) for adult patients by facilitating an independent review process including systematic literature review, budget impact analysis and external peer review.

Through NCEC endorsement of ED MACE, there will be a complete suite of tools for use in hospitals for the detection of deteriorating patients, from presentation

in the Emergency Department (ED) through to discharge from hospital.  
Contact: Fiona McDaid, EMP Nurse Lead, [Fiona.mcdaid@hse.ie](mailto:Fiona.mcdaid@hse.ie)

### **Early Identification of Delirium in Emergency Setting.**

We have worked with the National Clinical Programme for Older People to complete a guide to the Early Identification of Delirium and produced a Guideline in joint agreement with the NCPOP and National Clinical Programmes for Surgery and Acute Medicine.

Important elements of the decision tool are the use of a series of four simple screening questions at triage for all patients over 65. The resulting score can flag delirium, allowing early EM investigation and treatment. The pathway also provides practical advice on the safe management of the increasingly prevalent issue of delirium in the ED. The agreed pathway is now going through the HSE approval process and will be rolled out over the coming months. We look forward to similar collaborative projects in the future.

Contact: [emp@rcsi.ie](mailto:emp@rcsi.ie)

### **Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) Developments**

A series of workshops were held around the country in July 2015 to provide support to key stakeholders involved in ANP service development. Please contact Val Small for all aspects of ANP and capacity building ([vsmall@stjames.ie](mailto:vsmall@stjames.ie)).

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland have approved a one day programme of education for ANP's & ANP(candidates) working in ED's /LIUs to prescribe ionising radiation for children.

The study day applies to ANP's /ANP(candidates) who have already undertaken an approved education programme and who currently prescribe ionising radiation for adults. The study day will be organised under the governance of the National Emergency Medicine Programme, ANP Forum and will take place in the coming months. Detailed information regarding the delivery of the education programme will be made available shortly.

### **Reminder of age cut-off for paediatric emergency care:**

The agreed age cut-off for paediatric emergency care of 16 years (eve of 16th birthday) and should be applied consistently in all units nationally. This is a joint agreement between the Emergency Medicine Programme and the Paediatric Programme.

### **EMNOW**

RCSI and ICEMT led the development of EMNOW, a Mobile Emergency Medicine Resource to support Training in EM.

EMP has worked with RCSI to include a section on The EMP Programme which is available to the Public.

The sections that are covered on EMNOW are:

- EMP Guidance
- Clinical Tools
- Quality Improvement
- The Emergency Team
- Updates/Contact

(<http://emnow.ie/emp/>)

## **EVENTS**

### **IAEM 2015 | Irish Association for Emergency Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting 2015**

This year's meeting was held in Cork from 15th-17th October in the Cork County Hall. The Scientific element of the meeting ran from Thursday lunchtime until the 2015 Leo Vella lecture on late Friday afternoon. The Gala Dinner took place on Friday evening 16th October 2015 with the IAEM AGM on the Saturday morning [Find out more about IAEM](#)

### **Integrated Care Programme Inaugural Conference**

The inaugural Conference took place in Dublin Castle on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2015. The theme of the conference was "***Making People-Centered Integrated Care a Reality***".

The conference programme included a range of renowned national and international speakers including the World Health Organisation, the International Foundation for Integrated Care and the NHS. The conference website is here: <http://www.investnet.ie/integratedcare/>

**If you work in an emergency setting and would like to share an upcoming event with the EM community, please e-mail [emp@rcsi.ie](mailto:emp@rcsi.ie)**