

## SBAR: Paediatric Intensive Care Nurse Education in England and Wales is Critically ill (Scotland and Northern Ireland to be included, with consent)

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On behalf of the PICS- Educators Group, and PICS Council

**Stakeholders:** PICS, UK PICUs, RCN, paediatric critical care nurses and other allied professions, PICS managers and educators, children and young people, parents.

<p><b>S</b></p>	<p>Many PICUs are finding it increasingly difficult to source funding for PIC nurse specialist education funding. Some lead PICUs have been unable to source any funding at all and nurse education in these trusts is at risk. Other centres are finding that funding is decreasing year on year and it is expected that Health Education England may cease to provide funds in the very near future. Some centres use charitable funds to provide this essential education.</p> <p>Lack of nurse education poses a risk to these institutions, in terms of delivering high quality care to critically ill children, by nurses educated sufficiently to provide that care.</p>
<p><b>B</b></p>	<p>Historically English nurse post registration education was quality controlled by the English Nation Board (ENB). This changed in the 1990's when quality control and the delivery of these course moved into the universities.</p> <p>Currently, courses are either delivered entirely by universities or delivered by host NHS Trusts, and quality controlled by universities. Funding has usually been devolved from Health Education England.</p>
<p><b>A</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some lead centres, notably London, have commissioned university course places for PIC specialist courses. Funds for this have been decreasing year on year.</li> <li>• In the regions, most areas now have no commissioned university places.</li> <li>• Universities are withdrawing courses, due to very low numbers and lack of financial viability.</li> <li>• Two lead centres are delivering courses in house and are collaborating with other centres in nearby regions. This arrangement ensures cost effectiveness, positive networking and parity between intensive care units.</li> <li>• Two lead centres are currently in negotiations with local universities and course provision is at risk.</li> <li>• All centres benchmark their course content, learning outcomes and assessment against PICS Standards (2010 or 2015), and additional standards for PIC Specialist Nurse Education <a href="http://picsociety.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2015-09-V2.1-PICS-E-Specialist-Education-Standards.pdf">http://picsociety.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2015-09-V2.1-PICS-E-Specialist-Education-Standards.pdf</a></li> <li>• Universities use the expertise of local NHS staff to write and deliver their courses, yet still charge the NHS trusts per student head for validation of CATS points at either academic level 6 or 7. This ranges from £50 to £1800 per 20 CAT points.</li> <li>• All nurses graduate with a first degree, and do not necessarily need more CAT points at level 6.</li> <li>• If CAT points are offered at level 7, they can seldom be used towards a masters programme.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Across the county, most paediatric critical care units have the expertise within to deliver their own specialist courses, yet the historical link with the universities for course validation is preventing growth of provision, despite a growing need for paediatric intensive care, nationally. This may have a negative impact on workforce growth, development and retention in time.</li> </ul>
<p><b>R</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centres who have no funding shortfall should continue providing quality PIC Education to suit their individual centre service need.</li> <li>• PICS have robust standards for post registration nurse education, written by nurse educators who are Registered Nurse teachers and educated to Masters level. These could be strengthened and written in a benchmarking format and ratified by PICS Council.</li> <li>• Centres unable to afford university modules should be able to write their own course against the PICS standards, and receive a PICS approval.</li> <li>• This would provide greater flexibility for the PICUs, who could deliver their courses around the peaks in service demand, rather than being tied to the academic calendar.</li> <li>• Any centre providing a course would need a suitably qualified course leader in post who would not be included in the bed opening staffing numbers (PICS, 2015).</li> </ul> <p>How PICS approval could proceed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A centre would write their course, using PICS standards and template. Course examples could be hosted in the members area of the PICS web site which could be shared, use or modified between centres to suit local requirements.</li> <li>• Course leaders should be an experienced paediatric critical care nurse, with a critical care qualification, with or working towards Graduate or Post Graduate qualification in Education leading to Registered Teacher (Nursing and Midwifery Council) status. The same would be required of external moderator.</li> <li>• The course centre is responsible for securing an external moderator, who would be a volunteer.</li> <li>• This process is guided and approved by the PICS Educators group.</li> <li>• The course would be ratified by PICS council, using a quality control template.</li> <li>• Course authors and leaders must be members of PICS.</li> <li>• Nurses who complete this programme of study must be a PICS member. A PICS certificate of completion would only be issued to PICS members.</li> <li>• All course validation and documentation would be housed on the PICS website for members only. There would be a sharing agreement between all centres. Intellectual Property (IP) would be owned by the local organisations.</li> <li>• There would be no fee charged to organisations for this service, providing course participants and leaders are PICS members.</li> <li>• Organisations who are course providers would need to charge a fee to other centres, covering their institutional costs.</li> </ul> <p>Rationale for PICS membership: Cost may be incurred by PICS in terms of provision of documentation, web site housing, ratification processes. PICS is a registered charity and is non-profit making organisation, which exists to support its members. Membership from nurse and AHPs has been in decline. This project may have the additional benefit of raising the profile of PICS in nursing and encouraging increased membership.</p>



Paediatric Intensive  
Care Society

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PIC lead centres.