

BURN CARE UPDATE

Issue 1
February 2004

Welcome to the first edition of the Burn Care Update
Our aim is keep you informed of the work accomplished to date and
prospective plans for Burn Care

What is the National Burn Care Group?

The National Burn Care Group (NBCG) was formed in the summer of 2003 to take forward the recommendations made by the British Burn Association two years earlier. The document – The National Burn Care Review - made over 146 separate recommendations to improve the way we care for people with burn injuries. The Burn Care Standards have been developed following these recommendations and the NBCG is to progress the ideas that require a UK wide focus. Recommendations will be made for the improvement of services including the use of any additional national funding that may become available. These will take account of the views of recent patients and their carers and of longer-term burn survivors. Specific projects such as developing a National Burns Major Incident Plan are being undertaken. Dedicated management time has been identified to support the work of the Group and to ensure that objectives are met.

The NBCG is chaired by Candy Morris, Chief Executive of Kent and Medway SHA. The membership covers all those groups of people that are associated with the care of people with burn injuries and include:

- Specialist Commissioning Managers from the eight English groups and their Welsh, Scottish and Northern Ireland equivalents.
- Representatives from the British Burn Association, including a Surgeon, a Specialist Nurse and a Therapist, the British Association of Plastic Surgeons, the Intensive Care Society and the Paediatric Intensive Care Society, the Association of Emergency Medicine, and the Royal Colleges of Paediatrics and Child Health, and Anaesthetists.
- Patient involvement is through representatives from the charities of Changing-Faces and the Burn Survivors Association.
- Management representation is through two senior managers of provider Trusts, (one adult and one paediatric), a PCT Chief Executive, Ambulance Service and Workforce Development Confederation Managers as well as the Department of Health.

The NBCG has created other teams of people to help with specific tasks and these are depicted below.

Groups feeding into the National Burn Care Group



The process for designating Burns Services has been identified
See Over

Achievements to date

Establishing a UK wide forum (the National Burn Care Group) to carry forward the recommendations of the National Burn Care Review

Developing National Standards for effective, high quality burn care

Briefing Specialised Commissioners about the overwhelming case for changing the way we care for patients with burn injuries

Setting up a Burn Bed Bureau covering the whole of the UK so that patients reach the right care faster

Gaining top level commitment to improving burn care through a one day Burn Care Symposium in September 2003

The NBCG can be contacted via the Project Manager by:
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Update on National Burn Care Standards

The 146 recommendations made in the National Burn Care Review have been converted into Standards for Burn Care. They are aspirational in character – no current burn care service meets all the Standards – and they are intended for use by the Services and Commissioners to examine their practice and act as a base for agreeing future improvements.

A draft self-Assessment version of the Burn Care Standards has been sent to professional bodies for their technical advice and the agreed Standards will be used as part of the process for identifying the level of care that each service is currently able to provide.

A copy of the Standards can be obtained from Lyn.Wray@erscg.nhs.uk

The Process for Service Designation

One of the main recommendations in the National Burn Care Review report was that Burn Care Services should be stratified. It was proposed that there would be Facilities available for the treatment of the majority of burns in all parts of the country, Units that could treat the more severe burns will cover a larger area and Centres for the severest of burn injuries. These Centres will also act as Units and Facilities for their local populations. It is important that the continued rehabilitation required by patients is taken into account.

Whether a burn service is designated to be a Facility, Unit or Centre depends on many things including the number and qualifications of the staff and the physical resources available. This can be illustrated as follows:

	Burn Care Facility	Burn Care Unit	Burn Care Centre
Type of accommodation	Plastic Surgery Ward. Cubicles may be available	Individual cubicles	Thermally regulated cubicles
Nurse Specialisation	Ward level	High Dependency level	Intensive Care Level
Theatre Availability	Theatre sessions are available	Timely access to a suitable, staffed, theatre	Immediate access at all times to a suitable staffed theatre

At the NBCG meeting in January a process for designation was proposed and agreed as a basis for discussion.

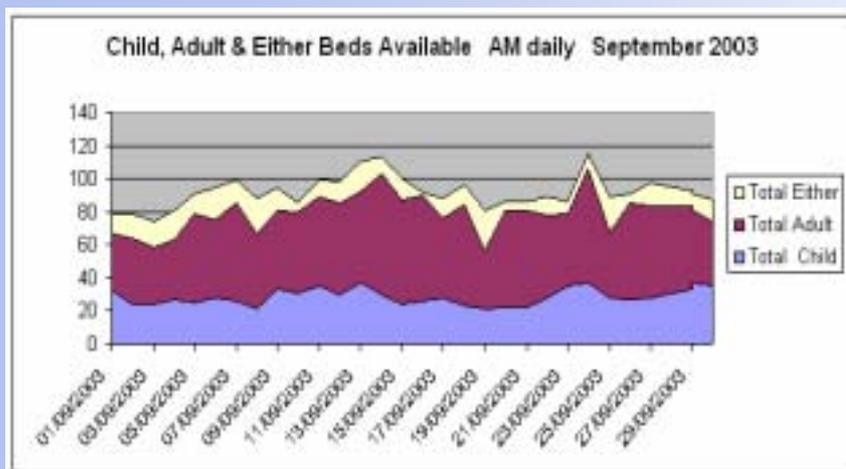
- Consultation on this process will begin in early March 2004
- A letter will be sent to all Trusts that have a Burn Service requesting they complete a Self-Assessment on the Standards
- An Epidemiological Analysis on the admission statistics of recent years will be made available by the end of April 2004
- There will be selection and training of visiting team members during April and May, prior to them visiting all the potential burn care Units and Centres during June – September 2004
- A plan for use in the event of a Burns Major Incident is being developed and emerging findings will be available in July 2004
- There will be a review of all the findings during October 2004
- Recommendations will be made by the end of 2004 with a view to implementation beginning in 2006/07 or earlier, where possible

Plan for the Management of a Major Burn Incident

Preparing for a major emergency situation is a high priority for every NHS organisation and we have an enviable reputation for dealing with large scale emergencies. The potential nature and scale of an emergency to which we might have to respond is changing, but it is intended to convene a small group to identify how we could care for a large number of burn injuries should they arise from the same incident. Membership of this group is expected to include representatives from the DoH Emergency Preparedness Division, the Ambulance Service, and the Bed Bureau as well as the clinical disciplines associated with burn injuries.



National Burn Bed Bureau



Since April 2003 the National Burn Bed Bureau (NBBB) has maintained a database of Burn Service beds available throughout the U.K. It uses twice daily fax/telephone messages to keep track of 'funded, staffed and available' beds. This service will be reviewed for its effectiveness towards the end of 2004 in order that continued funding can be identified if it is proving to provide a worthwhile service, or to propose other options.

If you need a Burn Bed

☎ 01384 215576