

# BURN CARE UPDATE

Issue 3  
August 2004

Welcome to the third edition of the Burn Care Update

## Achievements this Quarter

Holding 'Roadshows' throughout England and Wales to obtain local views and opinions

The completion of most of the peer review visits to burn care services to inform the designation process

## Achievements to date

Obtaining professional agreement to the Standards for Burn Care

Completing the consultation on the Process for the Designation of Burn Care Services to improve care for patients

The regular production of the Burn Care Update to keep people informed

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

.....continued over

## Progress on the process for the designation of services

Our last update indicated the proposed services to be visited and a rough timetable for the visits. These services have now agreed to specific dates, see table, and teams of suitably qualified and experienced staff have been identified to carry out the visits, most of which have been completed.

SERVICE	VISIT DATE
Sheffield	15th June
Manchester	16th June
Liverpool	17th June
Bristol	22nd June
Swansea	23rd June
Salisbury	24th June
Nottingham	7th July
Birmingham	8th July
Newcastle	20th July
Middlesbrough	21st July
Wakefield	22nd July
Chelsea & Westminster	3rd August
East Grinstead	4th August
St Georges	5th August
Stoke Mandeville	7th September
Mount Vernon	8th September
Chelmsford	9th September



Several of these services are provided by more than one trust and may be based on as many as 4 different sites. The co-ordination and organisation of the review team visits by the services has not always been easy – and at times very difficult – but all have coped admirably and are to be congratulated on a job well done.

The post-visit evaluations by the services have indicated that they were content with the way in which the visits were conducted and that there is confidence in both the process and the reports. However, they would have liked a little more time for preparation and more indication as to how the supporting evidence was to be examined.

Copies of the final reports and the completed and scored self-assessments against the agreed standards will go the Options Sub Group. These reports will be considered along with other elements in order to make recommendations to the National Burn Care Group.

## New members of the National Burn Care Group

The National Burn Care Group (NBCG) has now been in existence for a year and inevitably its membership has changed according to individual circumstances. We have said a sad goodbye to several people including Peter Nightingale, John Roebuck, Kevin Wynn, Jackie Kelly and Mirella Marlow.

On the other hand, we are very pleased to welcome their replacements in the form of Anna Batchelor from the Intensive Care Society, Liz Slinn the Chief Executive of Guildford & Waverley PCT and Stephanie Spencer from Kent, Surrey and Sussex LSCG. We are currently recruiting an Ambulance Service and a Workforce Confederation representative and hope to have them in place before the next meeting in October

**Achievements to date**

.....Continued

Briefing Specialised Commissioners about the overwhelming case for changing the way patients with burn injuries are cared for

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 last September

The NBCG can be contacted via the Project Manager by:  
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Staff, commissioners, patients and other people associated with burn care are to be invited to attend a stakeholders day which has been organised for Tuesday 19 October 2004. It will be held in a suitable venue in London (currently being identified) and will have an independent facilitator to help us all understand the process and help us to come to agreement about the criteria to be used and their relative weights.

The Options Sub Group of the National Burn Care Group is to make recommendations on the level of care that is to be offered by each of the burn care services. There are several things for them to take into account, including the epidemiological analysis, the visit reports and self-assessments for each of the services, the emerging findings of the burn major incident planning group, the local views garnered at the roadshows and the strategic 'fit' of the various centres and networks that will be proposed.



An objective of the stakeholders day is to agree how much importance should be placed on each of these elements.

The weighting of options is a well-tried and tested system in which many people have been involved before. The facilitator will explain the reasoning behind the exercise and how it is to be undertaken. By participating in this day, all sections of the burn care community will have a chance to indicate their preferences and to see them taken into account.

**Belgian gas explosion**

A huge gas explosion in Belgium on 30 July 2004 killed 15 people and injured 120, many of them with serious burns. The blast, at an industrial park about 30km (20 miles) south-west of Brussels, sent flames shooting into the air, and was felt over a wide area. It is understood that help was sought, and given, by France in caring for the injured people.



Similar emergencies can happen anywhere and the burn major incident planning team is making sure that plans are robust to care for the injured should such an incident occur here.

**Roadshows**

Responses to the consultation on the process for the designation of services identified that many commissioners and service staff would like to participate in the process. To enable the views of local people to be taken into account it was decided to hold a series of roadshows across England and Wales.

Up to the end of July, roadshows had been held in 5 places with 3 more being arranged and the possibility of one being held in Northern Ireland. Attendance at the roadshows has been variable but in most instances those attending have learned a little more about their local services and the next steps in the process for designation. Views expressed at these gatherings have been noted and the comments will be taken into consideration by the Options Sub Group in making their recommendations to the National Burn Care Group.