

Implementing a Maternal Critical Care Competency Programme for Critical Care Nurses

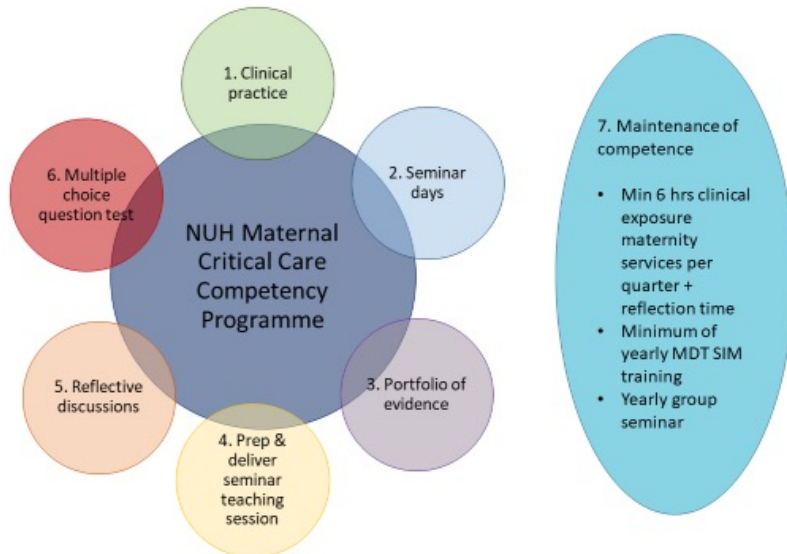
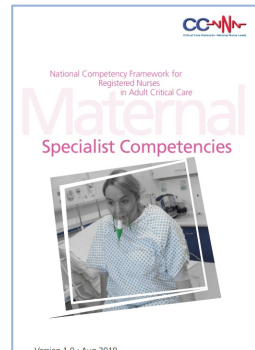
Authors: **Clare Llewellyn** (Critical Care Quality Improvement Lead) & **Evie Clegg** (Critical Care Clinical Nurse Educator)

Background

Maternal critical care (MCC) patients are relatively few in number (73 patients between April 2021 – Sept 2022; 1.36% of all critical care (CC) admissions at NUH), but are a complex patient group with very specific needs. This makes the maintenance of knowledge and skills around their care challenging, as exposure to these patients is infrequent. The MBRRACE (2022) report into maternal deaths highlighted that professionals involved in the care of MCC patients must be familiar with altered maternal physiology. It also highlighted that movement from the maternity setting to CC can lead to compromise in elements of maternity care.

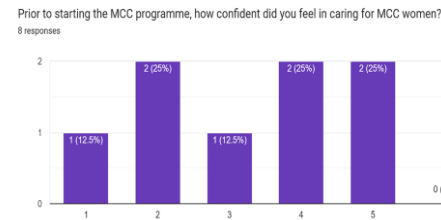
Approach

A pilot training programme has been implemented across CC to support the development of a group of CC nurses with enhanced knowledge and skills in the care of MCC patients. This programme uses national Maternal Specialist Competencies (CC3N, 2019) as a framework for this, and encompasses clinical time in maternity, seminar days, portfolio evidence, reflective discussions and a knowledge test on completion.

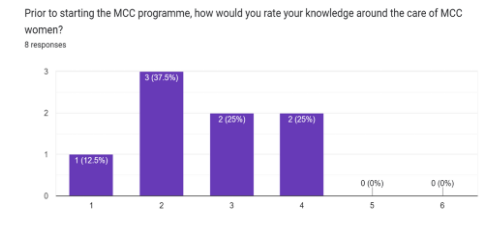


Results

Pre - MCC competency course evaluation survey results: **confidence**



Pre - MCC competency course evaluation survey results: **knowledge**



Prior to commencing the programme, the cohort of 8 CC nurses have all directly cared for MCC patients/overseen others caring for these patients, yet when asked how confident they felt with MCC patients, their mean pre-course score was 3.25 out of 6. When asked how they would rate their knowledge around the care of MCC patients, the average score was 2.62. (0 = no confidence/knowledge; 6 = maximum confidence/knowledge). These figures suggest that there is room for improvement in both knowledge-base and confidence.

Conclusion

On completion of the programme these surveys will be repeated to demonstrate whether there is an improvement. It is anticipated that these nurses will use their improved knowledge and skills to champion best practice for MCC on NUH's CC units and improve NUH's compliance with national standards for MCC (Quinn & Vincent, 2022).

REFERENCES: 1. MBRRACE-UK (2022) Saving lives, improving mothers' care: Lessons learned to inform maternity care from the UK & Ireland Confidential Enquiries into maternal deaths and morbidity 2018 -2020. MBRRACE-UK_Maternal_MAIN_Report_2022_v10.pdf (ox.ac.uk) Created Nov 2022; Accessed 14/04/23 2. Quinn, A. & Vincent, L. (2022) '4.1 Care of the Critically Ill Pregnant (or Recently Pregnant) woman' in FICM & ICS Guidelines for the Provision of Intensive Care Services, Version 2.1. London: FICM & ICS; p125 – 127. GPICS V2.1 (2).pdf (ficm.ac.uk) Created July 2022; Accessed 14/04/23 3. Critical Care Network National Nurse Leads CC3N (2019). Maternal National Competency Framework for Registered Nurses in Adult Critical Care Specialist Competencies Critical Care Networks-National Nurse Leads. [online] CC3N. Available at: https://www.cc3n.org.uk/uploads/9/8/4/2/98425184/maternal_comps_final.pdf [Accessed 29 Sep. 2023].

