



Paediatric Intensive Care Society: Nutrition Sub-Group

Terms of Reference

1. INTRODUCTION

Nutritional support of critically ill children is seen as part of the medical management with many units having developed protocols and guidelines to include nutritional support within the first 24 - 48 hours of admission. Despite this, there is considerable variation in practice with regards to nutritional support and subsequent nutritional outcomes. However to effect real change in practice all disciplines, nursing medicine and dietetics must be involved in improving nutrition, which is the ambition of this UK wide PICS multidisciplinary nutrition interest group.

2. AIM AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 AIM

- The aim of Paediatric Intensive Care Society: Nutrition Sub-Group is to establish a forum of interested health care professionals from the multi-disciplinary team providing a network for members to aid communication, education, supporting evidence based best practice across centres to reduce variation in practice and advance the nutrition research agenda in paediatric intensive care.

2.2 Objectives

- To develop a 5 year strategic and annual operational plan for education, training and research plans.
- To provide a forum for communication, education, resource development and idea generation from future quality improvement, audit and research projects.
- To complete bench to bedside nutritional related research studies which aim to further our understanding of the metabolic variations during critical illness working towards personalising nutritional support.
- To develop a quality assurance framework with regards to measuring anthropometry in critically ill children.
- To reduce variation in nutrition practice by developing a suite of evidence based consensus guidelines for local implementation.
- To develop multi-professional work packages aimed at improving nutritional and metabolic outcomes including the development of relevant outcome measures.
- To understand what nutritional training requirements are required in the future, in addition to the development of multi-professional nutritional competencies and extended scope of practice.
- To provide peer group support through direct communication with other group members.

- To provide national PICS training days on nutrition in children who are critically ill.
- To establish links with other European and International nutrition networks e.g. the French Speaking Nutrition Network

3. DELEGATED AUTHORITY

The PICS Nutrition Sub Group has delegated authority from the PICS Executive Committee to:

- Validate policies, procedures, guidelines and standards relating to the delivery of the Nutrition Group sub group strategy.
- Define operational plans, targets and outcomes for the Nutrition Group sub group.
- Annual reports to the PICS Executive Committee.
- Validate and/or sign-off upon completion any action plans relating to the delivery of Nutrition Group sub group strategy.
- Identify critical points and solutions to resolve issues relating to the Nutrition Group sub group strategy.
- Request the attendance of individual(s) at Nutrition Group sub group meetings to assist the group in the discharge of its duties.

4. ESCALATION ROUTES

- Chair of PICS Executive Committee

5. ADMINISTRATION OF MEETINGS

- Frequency of meetings – bi-annual
- An annual report will be provided to PICS Executive Committee using the agreed proforma.
- The Group will receive administration support from PICS
- Agendas will be circulated 1 month prior to meetings and notes circulated within 2 weeks post meeting.

6. CONSTITUTION

6.1 The membership of the Nutrition Group sub group strategy will comprise the following:

- Multi-professional representation will be encourage including (but not limited to); nurses, medics, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, physiotherapists, play specialists, patient public representative, dietitians, psychologists, pharmacists, others
- The PICS office will hold members' information in accordance with the Data Protection Act. It is the responsibility of each member to contact the PICS office (picsadmin@picsociety.uk or online) to update their details. Members may opt to join email communication or other Group notices.

7. NOMINATION AND ELECTION

- The committee will consist of a Chairperson and a Secretary.
- Other posts e.g. a Public Relations Officer, may be added from time to time.
- The Chairperson's and secretary post will be two years.
- At the end of the term of office, the positions will be open to members of the Group. If more than one person stands for election, the members will vote. If one person stands for election they will be elected unopposed. Every member is encouraged to volunteer at some time in their membership.

FINANCES

- Group membership is free, but healthcare professionals should be PICS members

MEETINGS

- Meetings will be held a minimum of twice a year (once the day before the annual congress)
- Meetings are currently free although the group may charge for meetings and events should this be required. The Group may charge differential rates for events or activities for both members and non members.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- The Sub Group shall be accountable to the PICS committee
- All issues of Accountability will be in accordance with and governed by rules as set out in the Sub Group Constitution.