



Paediatric Critical  
Care Society

## Statement to PCC colleagues regarding current SARS-Cov-2 pressures

Dear colleagues

These are unprecedented times. The NHS is under huge pressure and once again PCC staff are being redeployed and PCC units repurposed to care for adult ITU patients.

PCCS recognises that is an extremely stressful and challenging period for all our members whether they be senior consultants, trainee doctors or junior nurses. We wish to support you in any way we can.

Specifically:

1. We have emphasized again to NHS England that PCC is a nationally commissioned specialised service. At a supra-regional level, NHS England medical directors must ensure that PCC capacity is maintained and that cardiac, trauma, and ECLS services protected.
2. We recognise that many of you are working in unfamiliar circumstances or in clinical areas outside of your usual scope of practice. The GMC has given important advice concerning the application of clinical decisions (<https://www.gmc-uk.org/news/news-archive/supporting-doctors-throughout-the-second-covid-19-wave>). The NMC has also issued a letter supporting nursing professionals during this second wave (<https://www.nmc.org.uk/news/news-and-updates/joint-letter-second-wave-covid/>).
3. In the forthcoming weeks we strongly advocate that PCCS standards continue to advise our day to day working practice. That said, we should recognise that workforce pressures might, in the short term, result in nurse: patient ratios deviating from national recommendations. The UKCCNA have issued a position statement relating to emergency nurse staffing in adult critical care ([https://www.ficm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/ukccna\\_position\\_final\\_13.01.2021\\_.pdf](https://www.ficm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/ukccna_position_final_13.01.2021_.pdf)). If such circumstances unfold in PCC it is expected that units return to PCCS ratios as soon as the crisis passes. Please advise us if this situation occurs via our membership group [membership@pccsociety.uk](mailto:membership@pccsociety.uk).
4. We will post useful resources on the members website (see repository section) and organise an educational webinar around the management of adult ITU patients. Meanwhile you will find much helpful clinical guidance published by our adult colleagues at <https://icmanaesthesiacovid-19.org/>

PCCS recognises that clinical leaders across all our units and transport teams will need to make difficult and time-sensitive decisions to help their adult colleagues while at the same time ensuring our primary focus remains the care of critically ill children. PCCS supports them in this endeavour.

We appreciate that this is a fast-moving situation but please don't hesitate to raise any issues with us via our membership group [membership@pccsociety.uk](mailto:membership@pccsociety.uk) or directly to me at [president@pccsociety.uk](mailto:president@pccsociety.uk). We will come through this together by supporting each other, but there are some difficult weeks ahead.

Yours sincerely

James Fraser

President PCCS (on behalf of PCCS Council)