

Advanced Practice (AP) Community of Practice (CoP) Meeting

Date: 5 May 2026

Andrea DYER	andreadyer@nhs.net ;
Annika Wallis	Annika.Wallis@wsh.nhs.uk ;
Beccy Bonfield	b.bonfield@soton.ac.uk ;
Christine BUDD	c.budd1@nhs.net ;
Georgina Follows	georgina.follows@nca.nhs.uk ;
Helen Hurst	Helen.Hurst@nca.nhs.uk ;
Karen Nagalingam	k.l.nagalingam@herts.ac.uk ;
Lauren HALL	laurenhall2@nhs.net ;
Leanne Stannard	leanne.stannard@nhs.net ;
Marie Mccarthy	marie.mccarthy@liverpoolft.nhs.uk ;
Natalie Erickson	natalie.erickson@liverpoolft.nhs.uk ;
Rachel Austin	Rachel.Austin@porthosp.nhs.uk ;
Ruth KANDER	rkander@nhs.net ;
Sharon HUIISH,	sharon.huish@nhs.net ;
Vicky Sutch	Vicky.Sutch@nca.nhs.uk ;
Marivic Wright	Marivic.wright@nhs.net ;
Leah Torr	Leah.torr@nhs.net ;
Ryan Villanueeva	ryan.villanueva@nhs.net ;
Ananda Manoj	a.manoj@nhs.net ;
Aisha Mckenzie	aisha.mckenzie@nhs.net ;
Sarah MACKIE	sarahmackie1@nhs.net ;
Xifeng Liu	X.liu@nhs.net

1. Attendees

- Christine Budd (Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS FT) – Chair
- Katie Algate Rimmer – Renal Nurse Practitioner (Presenter)
- Marie McCarthy
- Ryan
- Aisha McKenzie (Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust)
- Andrea Dyer (Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust)
- Emma McMahon

2. Apologies

- Xifeng
- Marivic
- Natalie
- Ruth

3. Welcome and Introductions

- Christine Budd welcomed attendees and explained the meeting was recorded for those unable to attend live.
 - Meeting held slightly earlier than the usual monthly schedule to maintain momentum.
 - Katie Algate Rimmer introduced as guest presenter.
-

4. Presentation: Integrating Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) into a Nurse-Led Renal Service

Presenter: Katie Algate Rimmer

4.1 Background and Rationale

- AKI remains a major patient safety issue with high morbidity, mortality, and cost.
- National drivers (GIFT report, Renal Transformation Agenda) call for more efficient pathways and advanced practice roles.
- POCUS explored to enhance real-time clinical decision-making.

4.2 Service Overview

- Nurse-led renal service established in 2014.
- Dedicated Renal Assessment Unit (RAU).
- Use of handheld Vscan Air ultrasound device linked to tablet/phone.
- Training included:
 - Online renal-focused ultrasound course
 - Consultant mentorship (observation + supervised scanning)
 - Initial competency framework (basic)

4.3 Pilot Data (4 weeks)

- 15 patients scanned.
- Hydronephrosis ruled out in 13.
- 1 hydronephrosis identified and expedited for urology.
- Direct changes in management in 6 cases, including:
 - Avoided admissions
 - Avoided catheterisation
 - Expedited nephrostomy
 - Safe discharge from RAU

4.4 Three-Month Data

- 27 patients scanned (RAU and inpatient AKI alerts).
- Hydronephrosis ruled out in 17.
- Hydronephrosis identified in 4 (including transplant kidneys).
- 9 cases with direct management change.

- Admission avoidance achieved where formal ultrasound was unavailable same day.
- POCUS supported decision-making in 100% of cases.

4.5 Benefits Identified

- Faster diagnosis and treatment
- Improved patient flow and experience
- Increased ACP autonomy and diagnostic confidence
- Potential cost savings and reduced radiology burden

4.6 Limitations

- Only one trained ACP currently
- Single scanner device
- Limited consultant mentorship capacity
- Scans do not upload to PACS (documentation only)
- Reliance on formal scans without consultant verification

4.7 Future Plans

- Train whole team
- Purchase additional devices
- Develop detailed competency framework and SOP
- Re-audit accuracy vs formal ultrasound
- Explore broader use (e.g. vascular access)

4.8 Conference Presentation

- Abstract accepted and presented at UK Kidney Association Conference (March 2026).
 - Highlighted national variation in POCUS use and training availability.
-

5. Discussion

- **Training:** Consultant trained via FAMUS; registrars supportive but not accredited to sign off competencies.
 - **Governance:** Strong emphasis on staying within defined scope.
 - **Equipment & PACS:** Current devices not linked to PACS due to data protection; formal scans still required by some specialties.
 - **Comparative Practice:** Ryan shared extensive vascular access POCUS experience and competency development.
 - **Consensus:** POCUS highly valuable but requires robust governance, training, and mentorship.
-

6. AP CoP Business Updates

6.1 National Competency Framework

- Christine to circulate near-final draft response to UKKA.
- Awaiting response from NHS England ACP Lead (Julian Barrett).

6.2 Publication Opportunity

- Group encouraged to write journal articles on development of national competencies.
- Coordination via Christine, Marie, and Andrea to avoid duplicate submissions.
- Support available for writing.

6.3 Professional Updates

- Aisha McKenzie transitioning from renal to diabetes but wishes to remain on the forum.
- Update shared re consultant nurse roles (no single national pathway yet; competency-based).

6.4 NMC Conference Update (Marie McCarthy)

- Focus on future regulation of Advanced Practice.
- Digital badges likely recognised during transition period.
- Regulation framework still in development; delays anticipated (phase 3 likely post-2028).
- Clear expectation of portfolios, appraisal, and competency evidence.

7. Actions

Action	Lead
Circulate UKKA draft response	Christine
Consider journal submissions and confirm topics	All (via Marie/Christine/Andrea)
Share NMC conference summary	Marie

8. Date of Next Meeting

- **First Tuesday of next month** Meeting closed
With thanks to Katie Algate Rimmer for an informative and well-received presentation.