

Conference report- Irena Pukiova

European society of intensive care medicine LIVES Forum – Athens 23-25 JUNE 2022

I have been working as a senior critical care nurse and tissue viability nurse for critical care unit since 2007 until 2021. In November 2021, I relocated to corporate team as advanced nurse practitioner, Tissue Viability with special interest and cover for all critical care units in the hospital – adult intensive care unit, neuro intensive care unit, paediatric and cardiac intensive care unit.

My responsibility is to ensure that all patients are receiving harm free, up to date care in the field of skin integrity and wound care.

Hospital where I work is a major trauma centre and therefore Adult intensive care unit is a common destination for complex critically unwell trauma patients. The current project I am part of as a senior nurse is to create a comprehensive guide for bed side nurses on how to prepare for, care for and document the management of patients with a potential or confirmed spinal injury. This guideline will explore local policies and procedures in ensuring the right equipment and techniques are used, in addition to answering common questions and concerns regarding neurotrauma care. The project will be divided into 4 categories as described in aims.

Being able to attend Major Trauma & Brain Injury: From assessment to treatment conference was a great opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and to network with other colleagues from around the Europe. The conference was over three days and covered many interesting topics and practical management guides. Very nice presentation was given by Dr. Papaioannou - My trauma patient in the ICU. It was clear to me that trauma patients with inadequate tissue perfusion and increased serum lactate will be more prone to developing of pressure ulceration and there is a need to design a protocol for skin protection for trauma patients considering potential spinal injuries and priority of actions taken during admission to hospital. Dr. Magira presented trauma -related infections: risk and types. This was another interesting presentation looking at types of infections related to bone fractures and tissue injuries.

Unfortunately, not many presentations were aimed at the spinal clearance and management of spinal patients, however the opportunity to speak to other healthcare professionals and ask about their practice was very valuable to my project.

Attendance at the conference will guide me to improve our current practice and share all the slides with my trauma colleagues in intensive care and incorporate some of the good ideas into practices.

Overall, it was a great learning experience which I will use to improve things here in the UK. Thank you BACCN for sponsoring this visit, this wouldn't have been possible without your support so thank you.

Once the improvement project is finished in critical care unit it would be great opportunity to share the guide with all healthcare professionals at the BACCN conference.

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