

**Association for
Paediatric
Palliative
Medicine**

**ASSOCIATION FOR PAEDIATRIC
PALLIATIVE MEDICINE**

Annual Report 2024/25

Chair: Dr AK Anderson

Treasurer: Dr Anton Mayer

Website: <https://www.appm.org.uk>

Email: admin@appm.org.uk

Annual Report 2024/2025

APPM supports all health care professionals working with babies, children and young people with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions. It was established in 2009. This report summaries the APPM activity for the 2024/2025.

Membership

Membership numbers:

- Senior doctor 82
- Resident doctor 33
- Researcher (main role) 4
- Nurse (individual) 45
- AHP 10
- Student (free membership) 6
- Groups 42 (comprising ~5 nurse/AHP/Pharmacy members each)

Total membership 390

Membership offers:

- Palliative Medicine Journal
- The APPM Is affiliated with the European Association of Palliative Care and APPM members are entitled to benefits including discount on EAPC Congress registration
- Twice yearly Newsletter
- Communication: APPM Website and email shots
- Opportunity to join projects
- Network
- Reduced conference fees
- Research - Membership of the Joint Research Group (with Together for Short Lives) if interested
- Clinical support
 - Formulary
 - Clinical guidelines

Education offer:

- Regular medical training to support SPIN/GRID training
- Regular nursing education and annual study day

Projects

Opioid education program

Funded by NHSE due to changes in access to routine opioid medication in children continues with two new cohorts included each year. This is the completion of the second of the three-year funded program. The program demonstrated meaningful improvement in learners' knowledge, skills and confidence.

International

The APPM worked with ICPCN, and World Child Cancer funded by Global Health Partnership to deliver an ambitious program 'Building capacity for the provision of children's palliative care in Ghana'. Numerous APPM members stepped forward offering their time and expertise. Three medical consultants delivered a face to face 5-day teaching program in 3 regions of Ghana alongside local colleagues and an ICPCN specialist nurse. Nine members provided mentorship to a group of Ghanaian health care professionals, a further nine members contributed to the monthly webinar education program attended by an average of 400 attendees per session. Five clinical sites across England and Wales welcomed 6 (2 doctors, 2 nurses, 2 pharmacist) colleagues from Ghana. A celebration event alongside a stakeholders' meeting was held in January 2025. The impact of the project resulted in Paediatric Palliative Care being included in the Ghanaian Health Care System with the three colleges (Medical, Nursing and Pharmacy) looking to develop curriculum. Due to the success of the collaboration, further projects are under discussion for 2025/26.

Sub-Committees (Special Interest Groups)

Hospice Medical Leads Group (led by Dr Christine Mott)

The Hospice Medical Leads Group brings together doctors providing support to children's hospices across the UK. The group offers peer support and a forum to discuss the many medical challenges faced in hospices where medical teams can be small or even solo, and includes General Practitioners, Palliative Medicine Consultants, Paediatricians and others. We outlined the journey of the group in a poster that was accepted and displayed at the Hospice UK conference in November 2024. We developed a suggested hospice medicines stock list available on the APPM website. A highlight was a session focused on ethical questions from the group and facilitated by Dominic Wilkinson. In 2025 we hope to add journal club sessions and continue to develop our links to as many hospice doctors as possible.

Futures (led by Dr Lizzie Bendle)

The futures program looks to highlight paediatric palliative care to both undergraduates and postgraduates in the way of competitions. There is an undergraduate essay competition which is then showcased in the newsletter as well as vouchers. The postgraduate competition promotes quality improvement projects in the field with the winning entry gaining free access to the APPM conference in the year of their win.

Perinatal (led by Dr Lucy Perkins and Dr Sophie Bertaud)

The Perinatal Special Interest Group meets four times a year with the aim of supporting and advancing the provision of high quality perinatal palliative care across the UK and Ireland through collaborative working. The group's membership is made up of both doctors and nurses and includes representatives from neonatology, specialist paediatric palliative care and the hospice sector.

The group played a key role in contributing to the BAPM Framework, '[Recognising uncertainty: an integrated framework for palliative care in perinatal medicine](#)' which was published in July 2024 as a joint venture with the APPM.

The group is now focusing on producing a series of practice-focused papers on key topics in perinatal palliative care, as well as planning for the perinatal-themed study day as part of the 2025 conference.

Transition (APM/APPM) (led by Dr Jo Elverson)

The APM transition group has now formally become the APM/APPM transition group with formal cross ties across both organisations with Jo leading the transition work. The group now has over 40 members representing paediatric and adult clinicians and coming from all regions of UK and Ireland. We continue to value the group's core role in providing peer support for those working with young adults with complex conditions. Our quarterly online meetings include time for learning through case discussions as well as wider discussions around education and service development at local and national levels. New members are always welcome.

In response to lack of training resources for transition in palliative care we developed an e-learning session on the e-learning for end-of-life care (e-ELCA) program (e-lfh). The "Transition in Palliative care" was launched in February 2025. Although aimed at adult healthcare professionals, this is a helpful introduction to key themes in considering care for young adults during and beyond transition.

Research (APPM/TFSL) (led by Dr Emily Harrop)

The Joint Research Group is co-chaired with Together for Short Lives and meets quarterly, with key aims including having a strategic role in supporting the development of research culture in the sector, identifying and developing approaches to address the barriers to research with colleagues across the sector. We offer guidance for hospices and other settings on research governance; leadership and guidance on undertaking collaborative research as well as having a commitment to challenging gatekeeping with respect to participation in research. We are active in showcasing new research and translating research into practice (including informing clinical guidelines and informing the formulary). The 2024 research day was well attended, with national and international delegates joining us and seeking to become more involved in research. The QR code below will take you to our webpage and allow you to join the JRG:



Nursing (led by Lesley Fellows and Helen Queen)

The Nursing Group continues to grow from strength to strength with a really strong membership from nurses from specialist, community, hospital and hospice teams. The Nursing Group have continued to focus their efforts on education and training and run a monthly virtual teaching session which is often attended by in excess of 100 people. We have hosted an annual Nurses' Study Day with this year's date planned for 13 May and will take place in Birmingham Women's & Children's Hospital. We have recently hosted a Nurse Consultant/Lead peer support group which is being led by Lucy Coombes from Royal Marsden.

Pharmacy (led by Nirusha Govender)

The Pharmacy Group has recently become a Special Interest Group with formal affiliation with the Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacy Group (NPPG) and future planned affiliation with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) once it achieves Royal College status. These affiliations will enable greater collaboration, wider recognition and endorsement of any specialist medicines related publications produced in the future. Terms of Reference are available.

SIG leadership: Nirusha Govender – Lead/Chair, Deputies – Kate McCusker and Bhumik Patel.

Clinical guidelines (led by Dr AK Anderson)

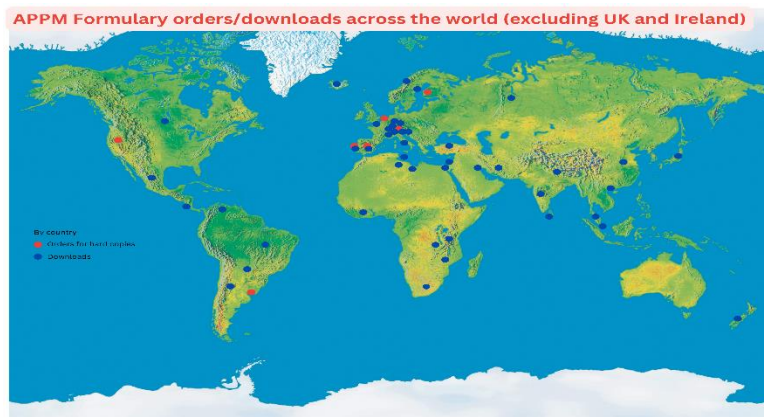
The second series of Clinical Guidelines on Pain and Dystonia and Hypertonicity have begun with on-going support from Cochrane Response and the APPM members who dedicate their time to this project. The first series has been widely presented and shared nationally and internationally.

Mentorship (led by Dr Anna Chadwick)

Initially a sub-section of the Trainee Education Group, we now offer a dedicated program for mentorship and development, currently aimed at supporting those applying to, or currently in, GRID/SPIN training. There is a rolling annual schedule of facilitated meetings and sessions targeting sub-specialty applications, career development and peer support. Following a needs analysis of APPM trainee members in 2024, a quality improvement project is being designed to guide an offer of 1:1 mentorship to support the transition to early consultant roles in PPM, with a plan to launch in September.

Formulary (Editor: Dr Lynda Brook)

The 6th (2024) edition of the APPM Formulary was published in November 2023 with significant changes under a new editorial team and leadership. Since publication over 500 copies of the Formulary have been sold, and the Formulary has been downloaded over 1,000 times with evidence of the Formulary being used in at least 50 countries and across all four continents.



A renal impairment supplement is on target to be launched at the RCPCH conference in March.

Over the next year the Editorial team will begin preparation for the next edition including exploring options for a formulary APP and development of a neonatal supplement.

New activities

International engagement

With individual members already supporting international projects, increased international interest in the Formulary and Clinical Guidelines and recent completion of a project with ICPCN and World Cancer, APPM is looking consider its position in the international paediatric palliative care space.

Education platform

Initial funded for South-East region and then further funding from South-West region have enabled the development of a virtual education platform. The management of the financial support and income generation by the platform has been taken on by the APPM. The funding pays for the platform, training on improvements on the platform and some educational content. This funding will come to an end in 2027. After this time the APPM will look to maintain this platform and support, where further funding opportunities are available, to expand and refresh content.

Links

Child and Young Persons Advance Care Plan (CYPACP)

Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health College Specialty Advisory Committee (RCPCH CSAC)

Association of Palliative Medicine of Great Britain & Ireland (APM)

British Association of Perinatal Medicine (BAPM)

British Association for Community Child Health (BACCH) (newsletter and workshops at their annual conference)

European Association of Palliative Care (EAPC)

New appointments to the Executive

General Practitioner representation: Dr Elizabeth Eales and Dr Becki Owen

General Paediatrician representation: Dr Caroline Scott-Lang

Financial report summary for the year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Main account

Opening Balance (April 2024)	£91,690.49
Closing Balance (March 2025)	£90,791.25

Breakdown

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus/Deficit
Membership	£11,640		
Formulary	£2,740		
Administration/Website		£4,312.80	
Conference 2024	£87,975.26	£69,835.31	£18,139.95
Conference 2024 deposit		£4,842	
Nurses' Study Day 2024	£2,478.20	1,570.06	£908.14
Bank fees		£78	
CYPACP		£124.60	
Journals		£2,040	
Subscriptions		£395.22	
Total	£104,833.46	£83,197.99	£21,635.47

Projects

Individual funded projects - update	Income/Funding			Expenditure			Total
	23/24	24/25	25/26 projected	23/24	24/25	25/26 projected	24/25
Formulary 2024 6 th edition	£6,010	£2,740	£7000				
Clinical Guidelines	£49,999			£8,318		£7,700	£33,981
Ghana International		£12,042			£12,042		

Education account (PPCEducate)

Opening Balance (April 2024)	£10,000
Closing Balance (March 2025)	£55,875.31

Breakdown

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus/Deficit
Funding	£54,525.00		
Course fees	£152.96		
Admin costs		£1,258.00	
Bank charges		£55.80	
Website/platform costs		£7,500	
Total	£54,677.96	£8,813.80	£45,864.16

<i>Platform developer from '25/26</i>		<i>£9,360/year</i>	
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Treasurer: Dr Anton Mayer

Chair: Dr AK Anderson

31 March 2025