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Dear Reader,

Welcome to the Summer SSNF newsletter 😊

Amongst the heat wave and the holiday plans, we have some exciting dates for your diary coming up....

We have an update on the [SSNF/SSAHP joint conference](#) this September and [UKSF 26](#), both great opportunities for learning, networking and sharing the great work you all do. After the success of last year's supported places at UKSF, we are looking forward to doing the same again, please see the summary in our newsletter of how to apply for a funded place and also the discounted prices on offer. This is also a great opportunity to be more involved with the forum and help represent us at this national event!

Excited to share that registration is open for an Acute Stroke Simulation course in Scotland. The sessions, currently supported by BIASP and Stroke Association, have been successfully running across the UK and ROI, but will now have its first date in Forth Valley this October. Please see below for sign up details.

We also have a great summary of the recent national workshop on TIA and minor stroke that took place in Edinburgh in June. Lots of learning and good practice shared.

Lastly I wanted to highlight the impact the SSNF has had in shaping the political manifestos that were recently published in Scotland, pledging to invest in stroke care, including the continued development of Thrombectomy services across the country. Multiple political parties took note of the 5 key priorities for stroke care that were developed with the forum, alongside CHSS, Stroke

Zara Tumblety

SSNF Chair

Summer Newsletter Content

- [UK Stroke Forum 2026 - Information for Scottish Stroke Nurse Forum Members](#)
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- [TIA and Non-Admitted Stroke Pathway Workshop](#)



[UK Stroke Forum 2026 - Information for Scottish Stroke Nurse Forum Members](#)

The annual UK Stroke Forum (UKSF) conference returns to the Convention Centre, Liverpool (formerly the ACC) on **2nd-4th December 2026** bringing together the UK's multidisciplinary stroke workforce to share the latest evidence, innovation and best practice across the stroke pathway.

UKSF provides a unique opportunity for stroke nurses to engage with national and international experts, present their work, and connect with colleagues working in stroke care, rehabilitation and long-term support.

 **Registration & Discounts – Book Your Place**

next year's conference. Registration opens soon and SSNF members will again be eligible for a coalition discount on individual registrations. Registration opens in early June, with early bird rates until 31st July. SSNF coalition discount codes will be circulated once registration opens.

Register for UKSF 2026

✍️ Funded UKSF 2026 Places for SSNF Members

Following the success of last years' initiatives, SSNF are again delighted to be able to offer **two funded** places at UKSF 2026 for forum members. This is a great opportunity for stroke nurses across Scotland to hear about the latest research and clinical developments in stroke care and to meet others from across the UK to share insights and ideas for practice.

If you'd like to be considered for a free place at UKSF 2026, then please complete the following [expression of interest](#) form and tell us why you'd like to attend UKSF and its benefits for your work. Decisions about the lucky members will be made by the SSNF Chairs and announced as outlined below.

Funding from SSNF will cover registration costs only; travel and accommodation costs may need to be funded separately.

Please note that this opportunity is only available to SSNF members who wouldn't otherwise be able to secure funding to attend UKSF 2026.

Deadline for expressions of interest: Friday 3rd July

Notification of outcome: Monday 20th July

We hope many of our members will consider attending UK Stroke Forum 2026, whether to present, learn, or connect with others working in stroke care across the UK.

[Scottish Stroke Nurse Forum & Scottish Stroke AHP Forum Joint Conference 2026 Advancing Stroke Care Together](#)

Thursday 17th September 2026, Stirling Court Hotel, University of Stirling

The Scottish Stroke Nurse Forum (SSNF) and Scottish Stroke Allied Health Professions Forum (SSAHPF) joint conference returns this

This year's theme, ***Advancing Stroke Care Together***, reflects a strong focus on collaboration, leadership and improving equity in stroke care. The programme spans the full stroke pathway and includes sessions on leadership across nursing and AHP roles, reducing inequalities, using audit data to drive improvement, childhood stroke, and the implications of Realistic Medicine for everyday practice. Alongside keynote plenaries, the day will include a lived experience panel, opportunities to explore posters and exhibitions, and interactive sessions highlighting improvement work and innovation in practice - including a '5 in 5' showcase of YOUR research and quality improvement projects.

The full programme is currently being finalised and will be published on our website as soon as it's available. For now, registration is open so please book your place for what is sure to be a day not to be missed.

Register now

Delegate registration costs £77.25 (including booking fee), student registration costs £33.25 (including booking fee).

For further enquiries please contact Gillian Capriotti (gillian.capriotti@nhs.scot) or Zara Tumblety (zara.tumblety@nhs.scot) and for booking enquiries, please contact Katrina McCormick (katrina.mccormick@chss.org.uk)

Call for Abstracts – Share Your Work

We are also inviting submissions for poster presentations and short '5 in 5' oral presentations within the conference programme. Whether you are involved in acute care, rehabilitation, community services or improvement work, this is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your work, share learning, and contribute to improving stroke care across Scotland.

We welcome abstracts across a wide range of areas including:

- Clinical practice innovation
- Service evaluation and audit
- Research
- Education and knowledge exchange

- Work in progress projects

Presenters will also have the opportunity to discuss their work with delegates during dedicated poster and oral presentation sessions.

 Abstract submission deadline: **17th July 2026**

For more information on how to write and submit your abstract, please visit www.ssnf.org.uk/conference/

[Evidence Based Nursing Journal Stroke Topic Collection](#) [– share your work and get yourself published](#)

Evidence Based Nursing journal is publishing a **Stroke Topic Collection**, bringing together a curated set of articles highlighting the role of nursing across the stroke pathway—from prevention and acute care through to rehabilitation and long-term support.

This is a valuable resource for members of the Scottish Stroke Nurse Forum, offering insight into current practice, service development, and the impact of nursing on outcomes for people affected by stroke. It reflects real-world challenges and opportunities across different care settings, including rural and remote contexts.

The journal is currently inviting submissions to this collection. If you have an idea, a piece of work you'd like to share, or a topic you feel strongly about - including areas of debate or challenge within practice – then this is an excellent opportunity to get your work published and contribute to the wider stroke nursing evidence base. Publishing your work can also support your professional development and NMC revalidation, providing evidence of reflective practice, service improvement, and ongoing contribution to the profession.

Please have a look at the website for information on paper types and submission details: <https://ebn.bmj.com/pages/topic-collection-stroke>

If you are interested in submitting and would like support or to discuss your ideas, please reach out to **Lisa Kidd** (lisa.kidd@gcu.ac.uk)

Email Lisa Kidd



UK AND ROI ACUTE STROKE SIMULATION COURSE

An innovative, multidisciplinary one day course for anyone involved in acute stroke care

AIMS

- ✓ Improve acute stroke recognition
- ✓ Improve reperfusion management
- ✓ Identify stroke mimics
- ✓ Apply evidence based practice to haemorrhagic strokes
- ✓ Improve your leadership skills in time critical situations
- ✓ Improve your communication and collaborative working
- ✓ Select appropriate imaging

COURSE DATES

27/02/2026 Royal Derby Hospital, Derby	18/03/2026 County Hospital, Stafford	20/03/2026 Royal Surrey Hospital, Guildford	27/03/2026 St. Mary's Hospital, London	30/03/2026 Royal Bournemouth Hospital, Bournemouth	17/04/2026 Withybush Hospital, Haverfordwest, Wales	24/04/2026 St. Mary's Hospital, London	08/05/2026 The Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton	
27/05/2026 County Hospital, Stafford	04/06/2026 Southmead Hospital, Bristol	26/06/2026 Whiston Hospital, Prescot, Bristol	07/07/2026 Darent Valley Hospital, Kent	10/07/2026 University Hospital North Tees, Stockton-on-Tees	13/07/2026 Jersey General Hospital	11/09/2026 Jersey General Hospital	25/09/2026 Royal Derby Hospital, Derby	15/10/2026 Royal Bournemouth Hospital, Bournemouth
16/10/2026 University Hospital, Hartlepool	22/10/2026 Scottish Centre for Simulation and Clinical Human Factors, Forth Valley	26/10/2025 Whiston Hospital, Prescot	11/12/2026 The Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton					

Find out more here



REVIEWS

"Excellent clinicians and educators"

"It has really helped my confidence in managing thrombolysis calls"

please email ukstrokesimulation@gmail.com if you'd like your hospital to be involved






Find out more

[TIA and Non-Admitted Stroke Pathway Workshop](#)

Public Health Scotland – 5 June 2026

event brought together representatives from health boards across Scotland, with attendees joining both in person and via Microsoft Teams. The workshop provided an important opportunity to share current practices, identify challenges, and explore opportunities for service improvement and alignment across regions. Lunch and refreshments were kindly provided by Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland (CHSS) and the Stroke Association, supporting networking and informal discussion throughout the day.

Shared Learning from Health Boards

Several health boards delivered presentations highlighting local service models and the challenges they face.

Colleagues from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde outlined the complexities of delivering a cohesive TIA service across three acute sites. They described the operational challenges associated with maintaining equitable access and consistency of care across a geographically dispersed service. Importantly, they also presented ongoing improvement work aimed at enhancing patient access and streamlining pathways.

NHS Highland provided valuable insight into the delivery of TIA care within a remote and rural setting. Their presentation emphasised the logistical challenges associated with geography, including travel distances, workforce limitations, and access to timely diagnostics. Despite these constraints, they demonstrated innovative approaches to maintaining safe and effective patient care.

From NHS Lothian, a model of early triage via direct telephone referral was presented. This system allows clinicians to discuss cases with specialist teams at the point of referral, helping to reduce inappropriate referrals and ensure that patients are directed promptly to the most appropriate pathway. This approach has the potential to improve efficiency and reduce unnecessary clinic burden.

Workshop Discussions

Following the presentations, attendees participated in regional breakout discussions (North, East, and West). These sessions focused on identifying common themes and potential solutions to shared challenges.

A key area of discussion was the potential for cross-boundary working, particularly in relation to improving access to specialist input. Participants explored the concept of establishing more consistent 7-day access to consultant-level advice. While there was broad agreement on the potential benefits of this approach, significant challenges were acknowledged.

to imaging, and availability of secondary prevention medications. These differences present practical barriers to standardisation and cross-board collaboration.

Closing Session and Future Audit Development

The workshop concluded with a strategic discussion led by Professor Mary-Joan Macleod, focusing on plans for a forthcoming national outpatient audit to be delivered via REDCap. This audit is due to commence shortly and aims to provide more robust data on TIA and minor stroke pathways.

The proposed inclusion criteria will capture patients who are admitted and discharged on the same or following day. Patients with more significant deficits—specifically those unable to talk, walk, or lift their arms—will continue to be included within the inpatient stroke audit.

There was discussion around the classification of patients who are admitted and discharged quickly due to limited rehabilitation potential, for example those admitted from long-term care facilities. This group presents a grey area for inclusion and will require further clarification to ensure consistency in data capture.

Clinical assessment measures will also be refined. The National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS) is expected to be documented for patients with minor stroke, and the addition of a frailty score was proposed to better reflect patient complexity and support outcome analysis.

Key Standards for Timeliness and Investigation

Clear expectations were outlined regarding assessment timelines and access to investigations:

- Patients should be assessed within 24 hours if their event has occurred within the preceding 7 days, with this standard applying consistently across all 7 days of the week
- Patients with minor stroke should receive urgent imaging within 4 hours where appropriate, including CT, MRI, and carotid imaging
- Patients diagnosed with TIA should undergo MRI brain and carotid imaging within 24 hours, where clinically indicated
- For patients presenting later, MRI imaging should be completed within 1 week

It was emphasised that where these targets are not achieved, clear documentation of the reasons should be recorded to support audit and quality

Ongoing Management and Follow-Up

The importance of robust secondary prevention and follow-up was reinforced. All patients diagnosed with TIA should receive a 6-month review, aligning with current stroke follow-up practice. This should include optimisation of blood pressure and lipid management, as well as initiation of anticoagulation (e.g. DOAC therapy) in patients with atrial fibrillation.

Patients with persistent or ongoing symptoms should receive appropriate therapy input, including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, and orthoptics as indicated.

Additional practical advice discussed included the 4-week driving restriction following a TIA or minor stroke event.

Key Outcomes and Next Steps

There was a collective agreement that meaningful improvement must begin at a local level. Health boards recognised the need to review and update their existing TIA clinic models to ensure they remain fit for purpose and aligned with current demand and best practice.

In addition, the importance of workforce development was highlighted. Katrina Brennan expressed interest in facilitating a future workshop in partnership with SSNF, focused specifically on standardising education for nursing staff at band 6 and above, recognising the pivotal role nurses play in delivering TIA services and supporting pathway optimisation.

Conclusion

The workshop provided a valuable platform for shared learning and collaborative discussion. While challenges remain—particularly around variation in service provision and resource availability—there was a strong sense of collective commitment to improving TIA and non-admitted stroke pathways across Scotland.

The introduction of the updated national outpatient audit, alongside service redesign and enhanced education initiatives, represents an important step towards greater consistency, improved data capture, and ultimately better patient outcomes. Continued collaboration across health boards will be essential to delivering sustainable and effective improvements in care.



Scottish Stroke Nurses Forum Newsletter is supported by Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland

If you have an article you would like to submit for the next newsletter please contact melissa.grieve@chss.org.uk

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