

# SWUK ODN Burns Bulletin

Keeping you updated on Burns activity in  
South West England and South Wales

December 2019

**NHS**

South West UK Burn Care  
Operational Delivery Network

## CONTACT DETAILS

### The Welsh Adult Burns Centre & Paediatric Unit

Morrison Hospital, Swansea

Tel: 01792 703 802

Switch: 01792 702222

8:00-17:00: Burns Consultant of the day

17:00-08:00: Burns Consultant on call

### SWUK Paediatric Burns Centre

Bristol Royal Hospital for Children

Tel: 0117 342 7901

Switch: 0117 923 0000

(Burns on-call) Bleep 6780

### Bristol Burns Unit

Southmead Hospital

Tel: 0117 414 3100/3102

Switch: 0117 950 5050

(Burns on-call) Bleep 1311

### Salisbury Burns Unit

Salisbury District Hospital

Tel: 01722 345 507

Switch: 01722 336262

(Burns on-call)

### Plymouth Burns Facility

Derriford Hospital, Plymouth

Tel: 01752 792274

Switch: 01752 202082

(Burns on-call)

### National Burns Bed Bureau

24 hr help line to find a burns bed  
nationally

Tel: 01384 679 036

Welcome to SWUK ODN Burns Bulletin which is designed to keep our stakeholders updated on what's happening across the SWUK Burn Care ODN. This is intended for multi-disciplinary teams within the Specialised Burn Services and their inter-reliant services within our region.

To find out more about the SWUK Burn Care ODN, please visit our website: <http://www.southwestukburnnetwork.nhs.uk/>

If you would prefer not to receive this Bulletin, please let the Network Manager know on <mailto:SWUKBurnsODN@nbt.nhs.uk>

## Burn Incident Response Teams (BIRTs)



Following the publication of the [NHS England National Concept of Operations for Managing Mass Casualties](#) the SWUK Burn Care ODN took on the role of lead network for the Burns Annex Task and Finish Group. This group was set up by NHS England Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR) to review the Burns Annex, which accompanies the main Con Ops document, and incorporate the recommendations that came out of Exercise Phoenix in October 2018. The Burns Annex will be published in early 2020.

A major new development in the Burns Annex is the role of Burns Incident Response Teams (BIRTs). BIRTs consist of specialised burn care experts that can be mobilised from burn services furthest from the location of the major incident to responding hospitals closest to the incident. BIRTs can only be deployed once a burns mass casualty incident has been declared. This will then trigger a national response led by NHS England EPRR.

The purpose of the BIRTs is to provide the necessary expertise for assessing and defining the most appropriate care for patients with severe burns. They will be mobilised by the NHS England as soon as possible to the receiving hospitals after the occurrence of a burn mass casualty incident and will focus on the secondary assessment and triage.

The composition of a BIRT is based on the tasks that need to be performed and includes a Burns Surgeon, a Burns Anaesthetist/Intensivist and a Senior Burns Nurse. All members of a BIRT should have the relevant skills and training, as specified in the Burns Annex.

The overall objective of the BIRTs is to support non-burns hospital staff in the responding hospitals by providing highly specialised expertise in burn care. Upon arrival at these hospitals, the specific objectives of the BIRTs will be to:

- Provide specialist advice to hospital staff. This will include a comprehensive assessment of patient's current situation and initial management;
- Log patient details on a BIRT Patient Clinical Assessment Form;
- Based on their clinical contact, BIRTs will also provide secondary medical triage providing recommendations on:
  - The appropriate level of burn care for that patient (Centre, Unit, Facility or non-burns);
  - The patient's fitness for transport;
  - The patient's priority for international referral for treatment if required.
- Prepare detailed recommendations for the medical retrieval team(s);
- Assess any needs for further assistance with regard to continued local care, medication, equipment and care during transport.

The SWUK Burn Care ODN organised a **National BIRT Information Day** in Wolverhampton on 17 September which was attended by 121 Burn Specialists from across England and Wales. The aim of the day was to launch the new role and provide further information to those that were considering volunteering to become a BIRT member. Presentations covered a personal perspective of responding to a burns mass casualty incident, an overview of BIRT roles and responsibilities, NHS England's emergency response, command and control structure, how BIRTs would be activated and deployed and building emotional resilience in teams. We also invited the Chair of the European Burns Association Disaster Committee to talk about the "Mass Burn Casualty Disasters European Response Plan".

Following the conference, a BIRT Training Task and Finish Group has been established and will meet for the first time in January 2020. The group's role will be to develop a national framework of training that can be delivered regionally within each Burn Care Network.

Further information will be published as soon as the Burns Annex has been approved for publication via NHS Gateway in early 2020.

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## SWUK ODN Clinical Guidelines

In some adult patients with a massive burn injury, the injury may be deemed to be non-survivable. Before this judgement is made, it is crucial that certain actions are undertaken. The SWUK ODN **Guidelines on the Initial Assessment & Management of Burn-Injured Patients** has recently been updated to include a new section on the management of patients with non-survivable burns. These should be used in conjunction with your organisation's local guidelines and policies. You can access the updated version on the [South West Burns Network's website](#).

### Other updated resources:

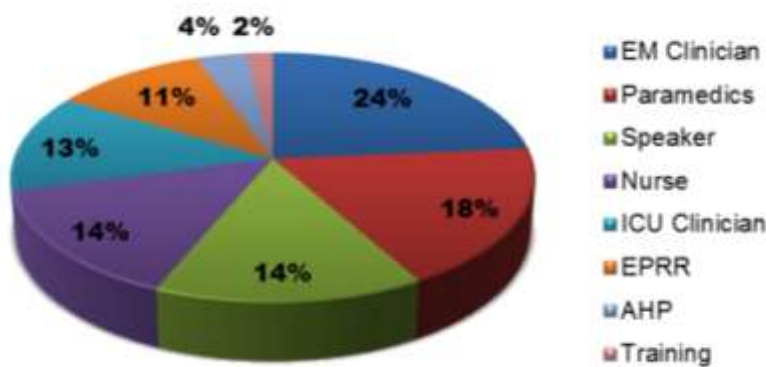
- [NICE Guidelines on First Aid and Initial Management of Burns and Scalds](#) (updated Oct 2019)
- [Moderate and severe thermal burns in children: Emergency Management](#) (update Oct 2019)
- [Emergency Care of moderate and severe thermal burns in adults](#) (updated Oct 2019)

# Burns Education & Training Delivered

This year the SWUK Burn Care ODN has focused on delivering education and training to our colleagues in the South West who provide emergency care for burn injured patients. Our aim was to ensure as many healthcare professionals involved in assessment and treatment of burns feel as confident as possible when treating burns on a day to day basis, as well as having the knowledge and skills to respond during the first 48 hours following a mass casualty incident involving burn injured casualties. This is in addition to the outstanding training already being carried out by each of the specialised burn services within the ODN.

The ODN has reached an additional 337 healthcare professionals this year. We plan on providing further study days in 2020-21; linking up with the South Wales Trauma Network and delivering a Paramedic Burns Study. Below is a summary of some of the feedback we received this year.

## Preparing for a Burns Mass Casualty incident in the South West – Plymouth



**71%**  
felt better prepared for a burns mass casualty incident

**79%**  
will change their practice when treating burn injuries

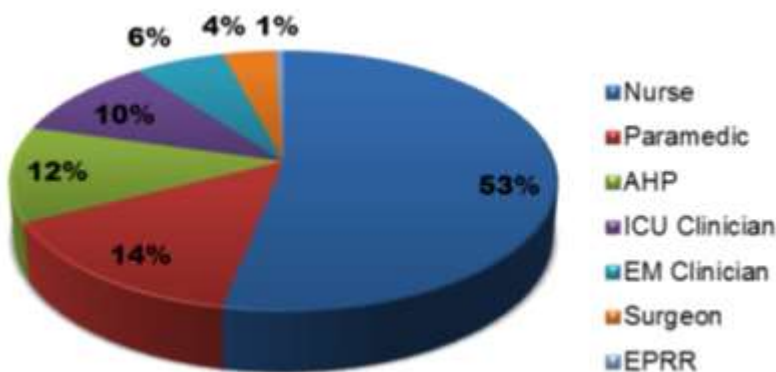
Confidence in treating a burn injury

	Before Event	After Event
Moderately	46%	65%
Extremely	3%	19%

Confidence in assessing burn size

	Before Event	After Event
Moderately	58%	71%
Extremely	3%	21%

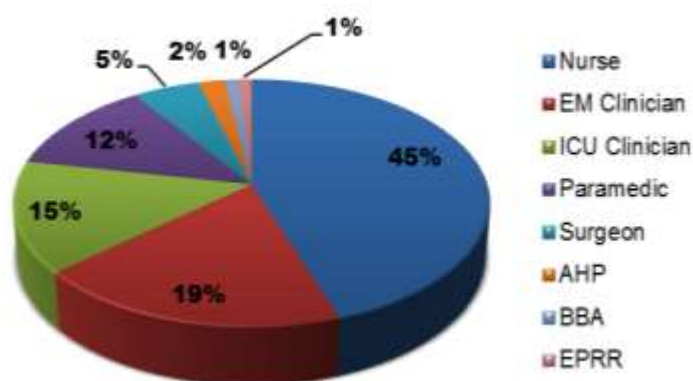
## Burns Education Day - Salisbury



Presentations rated an average of 4.55 out of 5

Overall the study day rated 4.5 out of 5

## Burns, Blasts and Biohazards Conference - Bristol



Presentations rated an average of **4.37 out of 5**

**85%** will change their practice when treating burns, blasts and biohazards

## Burns Education & Training Ahead



### Emergency Management of Severe Burns (EMSB) Course

Saturday 12 September 2020  
@ Southmead Hospital, Bristol

Do you work in a Major Trauma Centre, Unit or Emergency Department?  
Are you a Paramedic, Emergency Medical Technician or Emergency Care Assistant?  
If YES, then this course is for you!

For further information visit:

<https://www.britishburnassociation.org/emsb-courses/>

To register visit: <https://www.emsb.org.uk/>

## Scar Management Study Day – Friday 21 February 2020

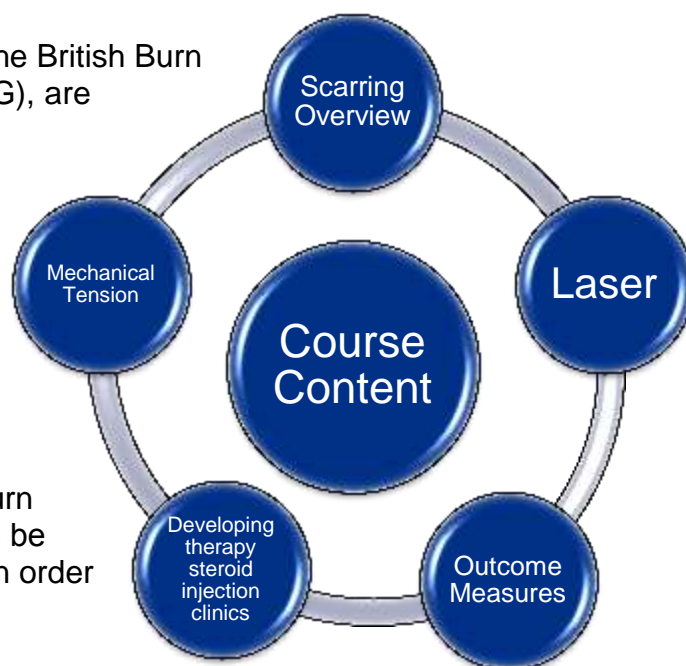
The SWUK ODN Therapists, in association with the British Burn Association (BBA) Therapies Interest Group (BTIG), are holding a Scar Management Study Day on 21 February 2020. The day is aimed at Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists (who are BBA members). It is open to new and experienced burns therapists, covering the topics opposite.

To register your interest in attending, please contact Amanda Dufley at [amanda.dufley@nbt.nhs.uk](mailto:amanda.dufley@nbt.nhs.uk)

If places allow, the course will be opened up to burn nurses, so if you're interested, contact Amanda to be placed on the waiting list. Places will be offered in order of registration.

**COST:** We hope to deliver the course free of charge to BBA members.

**LOCATION:** Southmead Hospital, Bristol



## Specialist Course – Burn Care & Rehabilitation

Would you be interested to enhance your knowledge and skills in **burn care** with this 40 credits Level 3 / Level M module?

Suitable for all members of the Burn Care Multi-disciplinary team providing pre-hospital, hospital and/or community care including Paramedics, Nurses, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Dietitians, Psychologists, Counsellors, Theatre Practitioners and other professions allied to medicine.

Apply online:  
<http://courses.uwe.ac.uk/UZWRWW403>  
Closing Date: 31 Jan 2020  
Course Fee: £1,900

### Course Dates 2020

Contact Study Days in Bristol:

- February 6<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>
- March 5<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>
- April 1<sup>st</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>
- May 21<sup>st</sup> (Assessment 1)
- June 4<sup>th</sup> (Assessment 2 – attendance not necessary)

Supported On-line Study Days:

- February 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>
- March 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>
- April 23<sup>rd</sup>

The course covers the whole burns journey using a variety of different learning methods and approaches.

On completion of the assignments, successful students will gain 40 credits towards a Degree or Masters Programme.

Led and delivered by Burn Care staff within the SWUK ODN in collaboration with:



# Saving Lives is not enough

By Krissie Styles, Head of Clinical Services, The Katie Piper Foundation

'**Saving Lives Is Not Enough**' (<https://tinyurl.com/SLINE2019>) is a report by Kristina Stiles and David Wales which challenges the current focus and practice of pre-hospital burn care, argues for the transformation of emergency service partnership, and addresses the need for a cross-sector customer experience framework.

The pre-hospital phase is very influential on the survivor outcome and yet is not fully recognised as such. The report demonstrates that the impact of inconsistencies, false assumptions and uncoordinated actions (or inactions) between individual services, is to leave survivors vulnerable to avoidable and life changing outcomes. It identified that the Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) do not meet the principle of 'Do No Harm' due to not considering the upstream impact of existing ways of working or new initiatives. In order to provide the best survivor experience and outcome, existing FRS practices are insufficient in focus, knowledge and resourcing.

The report recommendations have already influenced numerous quality improvements, including the procurement of smoke hoods for the public, crews attending scald and burn injuries to provide cooling and first aid, new guidance to crews for using water to cool burns, raising staff awareness of burn injuries and making burn prevention and treatment advice a core part of prevention and public advice activity.

The report echoes the national initiatives in healthcare and policy innovation sector by placing the needs and experience of the burn survivor at the centre of service delivery. It sets out a route to improve the pre-hospital care and eventual quality of life outcomes for burn survivors. In doing so it articulates a new role and approach for the FRS, significantly extending its potential impact.

The report was shortlisted as a finalist in the [Excellence in Fire & Emergency Awards in the Innovation of the Year category](#).

**Saving Lives is not Enough** Infographic - <https://www.ctif.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/SLINE%20infographic.pdf>



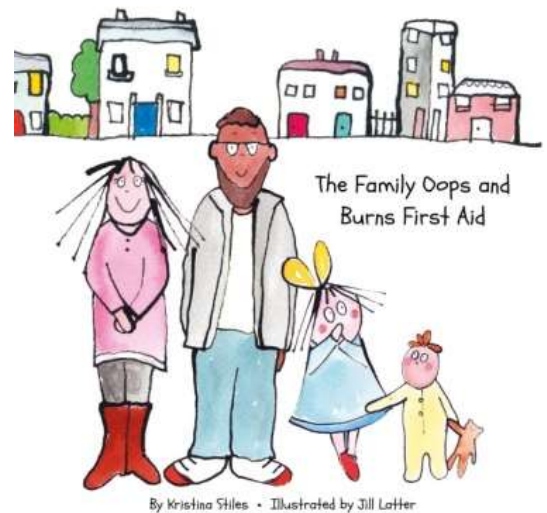
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## New resource for families – The Family Oops & Burns First Aid

By Krissie Styles, Head of Clinical Services, The Katie Piper Foundation

I have been a burns nurse for 16 years, working as part of a specialist team of NHS professionals in supporting lives and recovery of the burn survivors and their families. In the last year I joined a wonderful team at the Katie Piper Foundation - a burn survivor charity - in establishing the first UK-based Rehabilitation Centre for adults living with the consequences of burns. Most of the burn survivors who attend our Centre have been injured in their adult life; however a surprising amount of individuals suffered burns in their early childhood, which continue to impact their life throughout adulthood. It is not a coincidence that the slogan of this year's National Burn Awareness Day, supported by the British Burn Association and the Children's Burns Trust, is a testament to this and proclaims that "a burn injury is for life".

**“The Family Oops and Burns First Aid”** is a book for children and families, and is my personal contribution to the burn awareness campaign. A rhyming story, which introduces the reader to an accident-prone family who are not aware of burn prevention. The narrative is descriptive of the typical burn injuries frequently seen across the national burn services and raises awareness of the dangers of sunburn, hot drink scalds, hair straightener burns and the use of accelerants on open flames. The characters in the book attend a school to learn the importance of appropriate burns first aid, which is key in reducing the pain, depth and size of the burn. Upon graduation from the school the family want to share the messages they’ve learned, taking burn awareness beyond the classroom and the immediate family circle – making sure to promote healthy, connected and burn aware communities locally.



Some wonderful organisations working in risk prevention, emergency response, children’s burns and trauma, wound care and chemical safety came forward to support the printing and publication of the book. A professional voice over artist, Vonnie Lea, kindly gave her amazing voice to the audiobook version of the story, creating a resource easily accessible online by children, families, schools and healthcare teams.

“The Family Oops and Burns First Aid” book is now available on request from the Children’s Burns Trust. The audiobook can be accessed here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7aDyugYJOM&feature=youtu.be>

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## Update on Core Outcome Set for Burn Care Research (COSB)

*By Catherine Spry, Burns Research Nurse, University of Bristol/University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust*



The Core Outcome Set for Burn Care Research (COSB) is a PHD project led by Dr Amber Young, which aims to investigate and agree the most important outcome measures according to people with burn injury, their families and professionals and how to measure these in a reliable and practical way. This study has involved more than 800 international participants and more than 120 patients, in agreeing which are the most important

outcomes to report in trials relating to burn care. A consensus meeting was held on the 9 October at the British Medical Association in London to decide on the final Core Outcome Set. A total of 28 participants attended the meeting, with 19 more casting their votes via telephone. Participants included both professionals and patients/parents of patients and welcomed international input from areas such as the UK, Australia, the USA and Norway.

The consensus meeting included two rounds of voting and further discussion amongst participants, allowing participants to have their say on the most and least important outcomes in burn recovery. The final Core Outcome Set was agreed on and the results will be published in the final COSB meeting report as well as a peer-reviewed journal. Further research will decide on the most effective way of measuring these outcomes in burn care recovery.

Dr Amber Young would like to thank everyone who completed the questionnaires.