



NEWSLETTER

January 2024

Including...

- SAMBelfast – Registration & Abstract Submission Open
- SAMBelfast POCUS
- Important updates this month
- Post coming up
- SCE course
- Acute medics as improvers – QI in SDEC
- National Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Poster Competition 2024
- A message from the trainee reps
- And Finally...

Remember: If you have anything you wish to share with SAM members, please let us know by e-mailing administrator@acutemedicine.org.uk

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SAMBelfast



The Society for Acute Medicine's Spring 2024 Conference will take place on 2-3 May 2024 at the Europa Hotel, Belfast.

The programme theme is "The Thinking Acute Clinician."

You can register for SAMBelfast either in-person or virtually.

[More information and registration here](#)

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

SAM invite authors to submit an abstract for display at SAMBelfast in the online ePoster showcase and as a full sized poster at the event. A selection of the best abstracts will also be invited to take part in a 2-minute "lightning presentation" of your poster.

The ePoster showcase will be live for 1 year after the conference dates to extend the life and reach of your poster. Abstract Submissions are invited from all members of the multi professional team.

Abstract Submission Deadline: 3 March 2024

Abstract Results: 18 March 2024

[View the Call for Abstracts for more information](#)

SAMBelfast POCUS

Are you interested in POCUS? Do you have a game-changing case? Do you want the opportunity to present it in Belfast?!

SAMBelfast includes a POCUS cases lightning session, where we are aiming to showcase the utility of point of care ultrasound within Acute Medicine. If you have an **anonymised** case (with good quality images) that you'd like to present, applications will open soon!

Applications will require a brief (<200 words) abstract outlining the case, the POCUS intervention and why it was memorable. These will be adjudicated and successful authors invited to come and present the case in Belfast.

- 10 minute speaking session (can include brief evidence outline / teaching points if appropriate)
- Maximum 200 word abstract
- Must have good quality **anonymised** images of the case available
- All clinicians involved in Acute Medicine eligible to apply (non-Consultant grades encouraged)
- Successful speakers will receive 2 day conference attendance. **Please note travel and accommodation will not be provided for speakers in this session**

Applications will open in early February and we will be in touch then to share information with where to apply.

Important updates from this month (with thanks to Dr De Wolff)

- **The NCEPOD report into community acquired pneumonia “consolidation required”**

<https://www.ncepod.org.uk/2023cap.html>

Good review of this very common condition. A timely reminder for us to think about it in those who present with confusion (17.7% of those with CAP had confusion) and 11.5% had no typical features of CAP. 68.6% had a cough, 56.3% had SOB and 30.6% had fever.

We are not giving antibiotics within 4 hours in 27.5% of patients. Only 33% got written information on CAP, this is important as patients will often represent if the course of the disease is not properly explained. We are inconsistent on arranging a repeat chest x-ray (advised for >50 and current or ex smokers). 51.7% had a CXR requested but 19% of these did not get it done.

- **NICE: The updated [epilepsies in children, young people and adults quality standard](#) (QS211) has been published**

6 statements about the standard of care for these patients. The 2 week rule for patients seen after a first suspected seizure is still there and 4 week rule for patients referred to tertiary epilepsy service (2 weeks if urgent).

The 2 new statements for 2023 are;

[Statement 5](#) People with epilepsy are asked about their memory, mental health, and social and emotional wellbeing at epilepsy appointments. **[new 2023]**

[Statement 6](#) Children and young people with epilepsy are asked at epilepsy appointments about neurodevelopment and learning difficulties or changes in their learning progress, and

adults who have learning disabilities are asked at epilepsy appointments about changes in their condition and other comorbidities. **[new 2023]**

- **A recent interesting debate in the Emergency Medicine Journal** (<https://emj.bmj.com/content/41/1/4>) as to whether "acute behavioural disturbance" is a distinct clinical entity or whether it should be considered a form of severe agitation. This is highly relevant in acute medicine, especially where the cause of the symptoms is unclear and of possible organic aetiology. (Every AMU gets these patients occasionally, and they cause much stress and often damage.)
- **Did you catch the December webinar regarding last year's important updates?** (https://www.acutemedicine.org.uk/blog/learning_hub/society-for-acute-medicine-educational-evening-18-december-2023-2023-a-year-in-review/)

We reviewed relevant NICE guidelines and also one of the big publications this year – The BTS guidelines on Pleural disease. (<https://www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/quality-improvement/guidelines/pleural-disease/>), issued in July. One major change is that primary spontaneous pneumothorax does not require drainage if there are minimal symptoms, even if it is "large" by conventional criteria.

There is a podcast recorded on this too:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/acute-medicine-podcast-sam/id1646979241>

<https://open.spotify.com/show/6G9lqbAT3YyduMTMcQP6P>



Another interesting article relevant to us from 2022, but it contains useful guidance on how to titrate heart failure medications in the face of worsening renal function (WRF). <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ejhf.2471>

Highlights - creatinine could be allowed to rise as high as 50% from baseline (as long as eGFR remains >25ml/min, creatinine <265.2 and potassium doesn't rise).

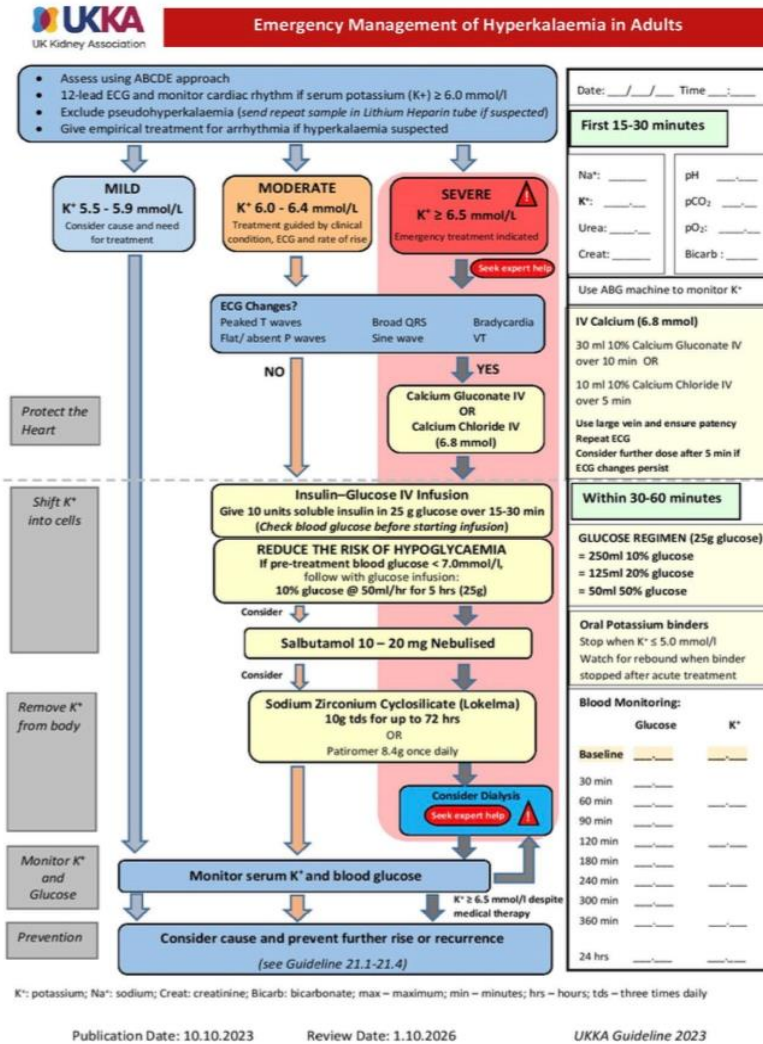
A few years ago this was covered in a review in Acute Medicine

(<https://acutemedjournal.co.uk/management-of-acute-admissions-of-heart-failure-patients-with-kidney-disease/#article-text>)

Clinical Practice Guidelines: Treatment of Acute Hyperkalaemia in Adults
UK Kidney Association



Appendix 7: ALGORITHM: Treatment of Hyperkalaemia in Hospital



Long document, the helpful algorithms are from p166!

[View the UK Kidney Association PDF: Clinical Practice Guidelines Treatment of Acute Hyperkalaemia in Adults](#)

Posts coming up – advance notice

In the next few weeks we will be putting out an advert for the following 2 SAM posts;

- AHP representative
 - SAM East of England SAMbassador
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Society for Acute Medicine AIM SCE Revision Course 2024

20 & 27 February, 5 & 13 March 2024

Zoom webinars

The Society for Acute Medicine will hold the Acute Medicine SCE Revision Course online in preparation for the SCE Exam in May. The course will run on four Tuesday and Wednesday evenings throughout February and March (20 and 27 February) and (5 and 13 March).

Course Format

The course programme has been designed to be delivered over 4 webinars and allows for full interactivity between the faculty and participants with time for discussion built into each presentation. The course will cover the following:

- Exam overview and how to answer questions
- Diabetes & Endocrinology
- Geriatric Medicine
- Respiratory Medicine
- Radiology
- Neurology & Ophthalmology
- Gastroenterology & Hepatology
- Infectious Diseases
- Pointers for topics not being covered in detail (Critical Care, Cardiology; Clinical Pharmacology & Poisoning, Musculoskeletal, Renal, Cancer, Palliative Care & Haematology)
- Mock Exam

Fee & How to Register

The course is FREE to all members of the Society for Acute Medicine. For non-members there will be a fee of £60. The course fee covers all of the sessions and access to materials and we are not able to accept part-payment for any one session.

[See this link for more details](#)

Acute Medics as Improvers – QI in SDEC

Day 1: Thursday 15 February 2024

Day 2: Thursday 28 March 2024

Cost: £325 + VAT per place

Virtual via MS Teams

Event Overview

This bespoke QI programme is delivered over 2 full days and supports attendees to learn core quality improvement skills by applying the theory to real life examples relating to improvements in ***Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC)***.

Each attendee is expected to deliver a QI project to support the application of learning. All completed projects will be housed in an online showcase on Learning Toolbox.

This event will feature:

- Understanding the principles of QI
- Identifying opportunities for improvement
- Building a case for change and planning improvement
- Working with stakeholders to effect change
- Deploying measurement for improvement
- Exploring creative change ideas
- Testing and implementing change ideas

Who is this event for?

The Society for Acute Medicine is working in partnership with Aqua to provide this entry level programme suitable for Consultants, Junior Doctors, Advanced Clinical Practitioners (including advanced nursing, physiotherapy, paramedic, pharmacy & OT practitioners), Physician Associates and Allied Health Professionals in Acute medicine.

You will have access to learning toolbox to have your project from the course published

Approved for Federation of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the of Physicians of the United Kingdom for 13 category 1 (external) CPD credits.

[See this link for more information](#)

National Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Poster Competition 2024

From the RCP Safety Committee

Please see below for details of the National Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Poster Competition 2024.

National Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Poster Competition 2024

Up to 160 poster places at our online conference.

Successful entries receive:

- An invitation to give a live oral poster presentation* at the online conference on 15 May 2024
 - A discounted delegate rate of £179 (no VAT), co-authors entitled to same rate
 - National poster competition oral presentation certificate
 - Opportunity to win a first or second prize in each themed group of 10 posters
- *2.5-minute oral presentation followed by judge-led Q&A

Who should apply?: junior doctors, nurses, midwives, consultants, AHPs, GPs, medical students, those working in care settings among others.

Deadline 6 March 2024 – details and online entry form here:

<http://www.bristolpatientsafety.com/poster-competition.html>

A message from our Trainee Reps

SAM are running an online SCE revision course from 20th February in preparation for the May sitting of the exam. There are 4 evening Zoom webinars covering a range of topics relevant to Acute Medicine and the exam itself. The courses have always been well-received, and are free for SAM members. you can register here: [Society for Acute Medicine AIM SCE Revision Course 2024 \(eventsforce.net\)](https://www.eventsforce.net)

The SCE has recently changed from an annual schedule to a 9-monthly schedule. The next sitting is likely to be in February 2025, though the date is still to be confirmed.

And finally...

It's certainly a very difficult time for us all in acute medicine at the moment. We are hearing more and more people describe the moral injury associated with working in such challenging conditions and seeing patients not getting the care they need in a timely manner. SAM have

been asked for their opinion from the media and have been busy outlining our views. You can see some press releases here: <https://www.acutemedicine.org.uk/sam-news/>

We are aware of the outstanding work and effort from our members are despite the pressures and we remain extremely proud of the work Acute Medicine does throughout the 4 nations.

In a lighter moment SAM was highlighted on X for its underwhelming promotional literature...

