

ASCN UK Governance Officer Report 2025

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The core responsibility of this role is to ensure that the Association's governance aligns with all statutory and regulatory mandates. This involves the ongoing development and updating of our Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), policies, and risk registers. These components are crucial for establishing effective processes that ensure the safe and equitable management of the Association and the Annual Conference.

The Department of Health and Social Care consultations, including the Part IX review of the drug tariff and NICE late-stage assessment for one-piece closed colostomy bags for people with a stoma, have significantly impacted us on the committee. We have worked diligently to represent ASCNUK members and ourselves as specialist practitioners. Our collective views and opinions have been carefully captured in the submitted responses, reflecting our deep concern regarding the substantial impacts of these proposals on product choices, patient outcomes, and nurse specialists' roles.

The EXPASS project - Exercise and Physical Activity After Stoma Surgery - is a multidisciplinary research initiative led by Sarah Russell and her colleague Kerry Archer. Its objective is to develop national 'Best Practice Recommendations for Exercise After Stoma Surgery' under the ASCNUK banner. This project has shown remarkable progress, bolstered by medical writer John Gregory and seven industry sponsors. At this year's conference, Sarah, Kerry, and Maddie will present this robust, evidence-based document. I extend heartfelt thanks to Sarah and Kerry for their exceptional voluntary contributions to this project.

A key area for review is the governance of the ASCN UK closed Facebook page. We have been exploring ways to revitalise this platform, aiming to foster networking and communication. Social media platforms must provide a safe space for ASCNUK members, compliant with relevant regulations. Our commitment is to harness these tools effectively while safeguarding member privacy and compliance.

I look forward to updating you on progress next year.

Wendy Osborne
Governance and Communication Officer