

Charlotte advised that the Health Minister in UK (Matt Hancock) had recently said that grieving relatives should have the opportunity to say goodbye to their loved ones; and that guidelines in relation to same were, at present, being revised in England. She went on to advise that the Nightingale Hospital in London are affording this to relatives. In addition, the matter has also been discussed with health counterparts in Scotland and we are advised that facilitation is in place, but not across the board.

She has since discussed the matter with the Robin Swann (NI Health Minister) to ask if this was to be applied in Northern Ireland. The Minister emphasised that he is acutely aware of the difficulties in ICU and issues with PPE and that it is important, that if assented to, relatives follow strict guidelines to prevent further spread of the virus. At the moment visiting is being facilitated if patients are not in ICU and do not have Covid 19. The current position can be reviewed, however, ICU have reservations regarding same.

Furthermore, Charlotte advised that she had discussed the matter with a non-executive director who had put forward the idea of patients making a recorded message prior to ventilation, however, she expressed misgivings, as it was tantamount to telling someone they are dying. One possible solution could be an isolated room, where relatives could congregate to say their final farewells to their loved one, however, it would still require the use of PPE and as previously stated, there are still issues around this; as well as the following of the required guidelines. Charlotte went on to advise that the Royal College of Physicians consider the matter an issue of dignity and advised that work is still on-going and that we will await the outcome of same before coming to a decision.

PPE

Charlotte advised an audit of PPE had commenced that was Department led. Linda Kelly representing Nursing. Small team will work over the weekend to complete a report and seek to ascertain from staff what would be the biggest thing to make a difference.

CEC Update

Caroline Lee advised that there is a decrease in numbers participating in courses and that she would speak to trust leads regarding the option of deploying staff to care homes were they could carry out testing.

Students and Returners

NR was asked if she anything to add. **NR** stated that there was nothing to add from the information provided at the last meeting on Wednesday 15th April, but we would provide further information when we receive same.

Death Verification

Rodney advised that a letter had gone out to the trusts from Michael McBride and Charlotte on 15th April 2020, but that RCN had concerns in relation to care homes