

**Prolonged Disorders of Consciousness:
Exploring best interest decision-making and end of life care
11th July, London**

Co-organised by Independent Neurological Providers Alliance (INPA) and Coma and Disorders of Consciousness Research Centre, Cardiff University
Hosted by: Fieldfisher - at **Riverbank House, London, EC4R 3TT.**

Draft timetable

9.30 Registration opens

10.00 Welcome Professor Mike Barnes (INPA)

10:05 – 12:15 Talk & Round table discussion: Clinically Assisted Nutrition and Hydration: Guidance from the British Medical Association (Chair: Celia Kitzinger)

Speakers: Veronica English, Dr John Chisholm, Ruth Campbell, Paul McGough

The BMA, along with the Royal College of Physicians and the General Medical Council, will be issuing updated and in-depth guidance on good clinical and professional practice for making decisions about Clinically Assisted Nutrition and Hydration. It will cover the latest legal developments (including whether and when there is a requirement to seek legal approval), the effect of the Mental Capacity Act on decision-making about clinically assisted nutrition and hydration, how decisions should be recorded and reviewed, and conscientious objection. The presenters (and the Chair) are all members of the BMA working party drawing up guidance on clinically assisted nutrition and hydration. This session will consist of short formal talks and round table discussions.

12:15 – 13:00 Lunch (provided by INPA)

13:00 - 14.00 Interactive workshop and Q&A: Withdrawing Clinically Assisted Nutrition and Hydration: Family & health care professional experience (Chair: Professor Mike Barnes)

Speakers: Dr Julie Latchem-Hastings and Professors Jenny Kitzinger and Celia Kitzinger

This session will include short presentations, interactive audience response software and discussion to examine staff and family experiences of involvement in decisions to withdrawn CANH and their experiences of caring for the dying and witnessing the death.

14.00 Coffee/tea break

14.30-15.45 Talk and Round table discussion: Best Interest Decision Making about life sustaining treatments what is happening, in practice and how can decision-making processes be improved?

(Chair: Dr Julie Latchem-Hastings) *Speakers: Professors Jenny Kitzinger and Celia Kitzinger*

This session will examine what is happening on the ground and strategies for ensuring guidelines are followed. The speakers will draw on their in-depth research with families and staff, and case studies tracking particular cases involving withdrawal/withholding of life-prolonging treatments to explore what is happening in practice. This session will combine short talks and round table discussion.

15.45 – 16:15 Improving access to rehabilitation through litigation: a MCS case study

(Chair: Professor Mike Barnes) *Speaker: Jill Greenfield (Fieldfisher)*

16:15 – 16:45 Next steps - *Professor Mike Barnes, Prof Celia Kitzinger & Prof Jenny Kitzinger*

16:45 Conference Close - *INPA representative*

17:00 Ends

**Set number of free places allocated to INPA organisations (contact your manager)
Waiting list for non-INPA members contact: KitzingerJ@cardiff.ac.uk**