

NEWSLETTER



EUSEN

European Society for emergency Nursing

EuSEN e-newsletter, number 3 , 2022



This year, let's have more

Wisdom

Knowledge

Confidence

Self-love

Compassion

Dear Colleagues,

We cannot deny it: Emergency Care is going through a difficult period. Over the past 2 years, Emergency nurses have all worked hard to provide high quality care for the patients. For months now, our Emergency Departments have once again seen a significant increase in activity and workload.

The staff has not had time to recover from the COVID crisis as it somehow did not stop. Therefore, nurses are dropping out of the workforce due to illness, burnout and by leaving the profession for good. At the same we are see increasing numbers of very sick patients presenting to the ED.

Where in 2020/21 the adult population was mostly affected by Covid now in 2022 especially paediatric patients are flooding the ED's with RSV, Influenza and Covid infections. It is for sure challenging to keep up the spirit and to keep on doing what we love to do. So, hang in there we are all needed to continue!

We must admit that also EuSEN suffered under the circumstances and the given time pressures. Despite having had organized a virtual congress in May 2022, we were unable to plan any live activities in the past years. However, the board members and members of the SAC, have been working in the background on various projects in the meantime. E.g., the blood sampling guidelines are being drawn up together with EUSEM, which will be published in spring 2023. Furthermore, EuSEN members are actively participating in the "Working group on Quality and Safety in EM." For the 2022 EUSEM congress that took place in Berlin, the SAC organized a wonderful program with various presentations by Emergency Nurses.

Again in 2023, no EuSEN live congress can be organized by various reasons but will most certainly take place in 2024 in Brussels, Belgium.

In 2023, we will arrange again webinars sessions that will be announced to the members timely. SAC will provide one more time interesting nursing talks for the upcoming 2023 EUSEM congress in Barcelona, Spain as well as it is planned to be actively present in November at the 4th Global Conference on Emergency Nursing and Trauma Care in Gothenburg, Sweden (see below).

On behalf of the EuSEN board, we wish you all much **courage** and **strength** for 2023 and above all **stay healthy!!**

4TH GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON EMERGENCY NURSING & TRAUMA CARE

9-11 November 2023 | Gothenburg, Sweden

<https://www.elsevier.com/events/conferences/global-conference-on-emergency-nursing-and-trauma-care>

EUSEM 2023

European Emergency Medicine Congress

16-17 September Pre-courses
17-20 September Congress
Barcelona - Spain



<https://eusemcongress.org/eusem-congress-2023/>

Association between covid-19 surge and emergency department patient flow and experiences

Christien van der Linden, Lisette Kunz, Merel van Loon-van Gaalen, Geesje van Woerden, Naomi van der Linden

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Introduction: Preparations for Covid-19 in the Netherlands included hospital reconfigurations to increase capacity for the expected surge at the emergency department (ED) (see Box).

Triage protocol
Personal protective equipment orders
Reconfiguration of the hospital and creating capacity, including:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Installing extra beds at the ICU- Reshaping the ED into compartments separating Covid-19 suspected patients from non-suspected Covid-19 patients, according to predefined criteria- Expanding the ED capacity by using treatment rooms at the polyclinics- Expanding admission units for Covid-19 suspected patients- Cancelling outpatient visits / Cancelling surgery procedures
Staff training, especially for healthcare workers from other fields and retired nurses, in order to expand ED staff
Extra staffing, including:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Involving medical specialists at ED, working side-by-side with the 24/7 available EPs- Hiring nurse assistants supporting at ED, ICU, and inpatient wards- Recruiting health practitioners with critical care skills and training
GPC as alternative site for stable patients with suspected Covid-19
Extra CT-scan at the ED

Preparations to increase capacity and to provide a safe working environment for staff during first Covid-19 peak

In this study, we describe patients' ED length of stay (LOS), crowding and experiences of patients with respiratory complaints during the first Covid-19 peak.

Methods: We performed a retrospective analysis of demand, ED LOS, crowding, and a patient experience survey during a 12-week period in 2020 and similar periods in 2018 and 2019. We calculated the crowding levels using the National ED OverCrowding Scale.

Results: The number of patients with respiratory complaints increased significantly, while total ED numbers were unchanged. Although presentation during the Covid-19 peak and needing hospital admission were associated with a longer ED LOS in patients with respiratory complaints, significantly less crowding occurred compared with the 2018 and 2019 periods. Increased ED LOS was associated with lower patient experience scores.

Conclusion: Advanced warning and its associated preparations within the hospital and the community prevented significant delays in ED throughput during the first Covid-19 peak. The increase in number of patients with respiratory complaints was combined with a drop in some other patient groups. Although presentation during the Covid-19 peak and needing hospital admission were associated with a longer ED LOS in patients with respiratory complaints, significantly less crowding occurred.

Highlights

- Visits for respiratory complaints increased during the Covid-19 peak.
- Total visits remained similar during the Covid-19 peak.
- Presentation during a Covid-19 peak increases emergency department length of stay.
- Needing hospital admission increases emergency department length of stay.
- Needing hospital admission during Covid-19 improves patient experience scores.
- Advanced warning and hospital preparation prevents emergency department crowding.



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In Press, Journal Pre-proof ?



Follow-up survey on the recognition of child maltreatment in the emergency department (ED)

REMINDER

There is a need for improving the recognition of child maltreatment in the emergency department (ED). Recently, we published a study showing that only 25.6% (34/133) of the emergency departments (EDs) in Europe conform to most of the NICE guideline recommendations on child abuse & neglect (<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0246361>).

This study was distributed through the EUSEM congress 2018 and the EUSEM, REPEM and EuSEN networks and we would like to thank all distributors and respondents for their valuable contribution. As a follow-up, we have developed a questionnaire to study barriers and facilitators for the implementation of a child maltreatment toolkit, consisting of a screening checklist, training and a strategy for adequate hospital policy, at EDs in Europe. We kindly ask your cooperation to distribute the questionnaire among hospitals (nurses, doctors and other professionals) in your country.

What we ask from you:

- Forward the email text with the survey link (<https://erasmusmcsurvey.erasmusmc.nl/bfaitoolkit/ls/index.php/4?newtest=Y>) to 5-10 hospitals (1 responsible contact person per hospital) in your country
- In order to get an impression of the response, please inform us (childmaltreatment.toolkit@erasmusmc.nl) on the following:
 - The number of hospitals you send the questionnaire to
 - The names of the hospitals
- An email for respondents is drafted below

We thank you in advance for your time and effort!



EUSEM, REPEM and EuSEN and Augeo Foundation and Erasmus MC-Sophia Children Hospital from the Netherlands have joined forces to work together on improving the knowledge about child maltreatment and the implementation of tools in order to detect more victims of family maltreatment at the EDs in Europe.

For more information or questions, please contact Erasmus Medical Center in The Netherlands

E-mail: Childmaltreatment.toolkit@erasmusmc.nl

ENA Day on the Hill Presents Opportunity to Engage Elected Leaders

By Rob Kramer, MPA, ENA Director of Government Relations

The Emergency Nurses Association is the world largest organization for Emergency Nurses. In the more than 50 years of its existence ENA has evolved from an US centered organization to a Association with members from more than 40 countries. One of its key focus points is Advocacy, making sure the voice of ER nurses is heard. Each year ENA organizes the “ Day on the Hill” . Members from all over the US gather in Washington DC to connect with their chosen representatives. They meet with members of the US Congress and talk about legislation that is of importance for ER nurses.

On a cloudy and cool day in May, dozens of ENA member advocates from across the United States gathered near the steps of the Capitol building in Washington, D.C., to listen to their emergency nurse colleagues recount their experiences with workplace violence. U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin discussed the introduction of her legislation, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act – a top ENA legislative priority.

On that day, and in those that followed, ENA members held dozens of meetings, virtually and in person, with their members of the House of Representatives and Senate and their staff to advocate on behalf of emergency nurses and their patients and families. These meetings are about making connections, sharing their stories and, most importantly, requesting support for ENA’s legislative priorities.

ENA President Jennifer Schmitz, MSN, EMT-P, CEN, CPEN, CNML, FNP-C, NE-BC, praised Day on the Hill attendees at the event, particularly newcomers, for using their voices to make a difference.

“Make no mistake, your voice matters and your legislators will listen,” she told attendees. “Take this opportunity to heart. You’re not just advocating for yourself, you’re advocating for emergency nurses everywhere,” she said.

For more than a decade, ENA has gathered its members together in Washington, D.C., to exercise a longstanding tradition of American democracy – grassroots advocacy. This year marked a welcomed return to Day on the Hill and its traditionally in-person format, with 147 attendees from 45 states making the trip to attend the event for the first time since 2019.

Over two days, attendees learned from congressional experts and ENA staff, who provided them with informational material, tools and strategies to successfully advocate for new public policies that will have a positive impact on the lives of emergency nurses and the care they provide to their communities. Speakers discussed specific legislation – including bills related to workplace violence prevention, identifying and responding to suicidality in the emergency department, and programs that would support more nursing school faculty and student slots to address the ongoing nursing shortage.

Attendees were provided statistics, data, legislative history and other context that helps them explain how proposed legislation will make a difference for ED nurses. ENA member advocates learned the importance of storytelling as a tactic to emphasize what a new law means to them – whether that be their safety at work or better ways to care for patients. They even got advice on how to use social media to engage members of Congress in a positive manner.

And, to wrap it all up, ENA staff and members practiced a legislative meeting to get a sense for how the conversations will take place. By walking through the mechanics of a congressional meeting in real-time, the audience learned what it will be like to be in the meeting themselves, to convey information to members of Congress, and answer any questions. The goal was for ENA members to be able to identify and replicate the right things to do (always following up) and the things to absolutely avoid doing (discussing political contributions).

A full day of preparation is especially important because nearly half of this year's Day on the Hill attendees were there for the first time. An effective meeting and effective advocacy start with being prepared and knowing what to expect.

One of ENA's primary functions is to advocate on behalf of its members to support changes in public policy that will have a positive impact on emergency nurses and their patients. Day on the Hill is just one way the association encourages advocacy at the state and federal levels.

The EN411 Action Network allows advocates living in the United States to write letters via email directly to their members of Congress to support ENA's various federal legislative priorities. This, as well as various educational offerings at Leadership Orientation and the ENA's annual conference, inspire ENA's American members to engage in grassroots advocacy campaigns and other opportunities to lobby elected and appointed leaders. Americans have traditionally enjoyed quite open access and engagement with their elected lawmakers, making events such as Day on the Hill and advocacy days in Washington, D.C., and state capitals around the country fairly common.

But what if you live in Canada or Mexico? What if you work outside North America like in The Netherlands, Kenya or Australia? How do ENA's advocacy activities affect you?

ENA Director Joop Breuer, RN, FAEN, who lives in The Netherlands, has attended Day on the Hill multiple times and is surprised by the level of engagement of advocates.

"In Europe, there's no link between lawmakers and the public. We have nothing like this. Nurses' voices are hardly heard – that's why this is an amazing event for me," he said.

Many of the issues that U.S. emergency nurses face are just as prevalent internationally. ENA's efforts to address those issues can serve as the basis for policy proposals in other countries. The language and laws might be different, but the priorities of emergency nurses remain the same around the world.

The strategies and talking points ENA uses to discuss these priority issues often overlap between the U.S. and your countries. While we typically use governmental data from U.S. agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Department of Health and Human Services, your home country's health agency or the World Health Organization may have country-specific or region-specific data that is readily available to use to support these policies.

ENA is currently reviewing ways it can engage with our members who live and work outside the United States, including developing a new session for Emergency Nursing 2022 that focuses on establishing a government relations or advocacy presence overseas. ENA aims to provide international attendees with the tools they need to get started as soon as they return home from Denver.

Successful lobbying or grassroots advocacy begins with knowing who the players are on the field and the rules of the game to avoid any foreseeable and potentially costly missteps.

Whether in London, Madrid, Canberra, Amsterdam or Buenos Aires, each country or system has its own rules and its protocols – there is no one-size-fits-all approach. It is ENA's goal to empower all our members around the world to stand up and speak out for positive change in emergency nursing.

“In this ever-changing world, it is critical for emergency nurses around the globe to speak up about issues that are important to them and the patients we care for every day. Day on the Hill is a great exercise in how citizens engage in America, and much of what we learned there can be utilized effectively in other countries as well.” Said ENA Director Vanessa Gorman, MSN, CCRN, FAEN, FCENA, who lives and works in Australia.



Policy statement on minimal standards for safe working conditions in Emergency Medicine

Roberta Petrino, Luis Garcia Castrillo, Basak Yilmaz, Christoph Dodt, Eeva Tuunainen, Abdo Khoury and the Emergency Medicine Day working group

The Emergency Department (ED) is the place where an unpredictable number of patients with any type of urgent and developing clinical condition or injury come to be admitted, stabilised and diagnosed and where the next destination of the patient is decided.

By its very nature it is difficult to predict the actual workload of the ED. This may vary widely from time to time, according to the movement of people, unexpected events, disasters, and other variables. For these reasons it is necessary to be prepared and organised at sufficient levels and in an adequate way to be able to cope with the daily workload and to respond safely to exceptional demands.

This is what happened in 2020 with the Covid-19 pandemic, when an exceptional two year-long workload fell on the shoulders of EM professionals. Most of the Emergency Medical systems were not prepared at the beginning and were insufficiently supported during the Covid crisis.

For the 2022 Emergency Medicine Day campaign, we published the results of the survey on level of burnout among EM professionals^{1,2}. This prompted great public interest, and has underlined the fact that working conditions and professional health deserve more consideration by healthcare administrators, as well as by the scientific community

The survey amassed 1925 responses, 84% of which were from physicians, and showed that there are signs of burnout in 62% of all responders, with about 31% with burnout in two of the three domains of the Abbreviate Maslach Inventory. Females, nurses and less experienced professionals had a significantly higher level of burnout. The responders reported frequent understaffing at work, and this was in turn related to a higher level of burnout and the desire to change jobs or workplace. The majority of those who participated reported having no access to support programmes to cope with these difficulties.

The results of the survey were discussed among professionals during a webinar presented for EM Day on 27 May 2022, and many suggestions and comments were received. The Emergency Medicine Day group has incorporated the campaign outcomes in the policy statement that follows.

Each Emergency Department should have:

- Adequate numbers of staff. The number of doctors, nurses and paramedics should be sufficient to deal with demand and acuity and to ensure sustainability for staff.
- Adequate competence of staff. In any country a specialty basic training in emergency medicine should be provided to all doctors working in the ED, and specific training in emergency and critical care must be granted for nurses and paramedics.

- Adequate recognition from other specialists. The job of EM professional is difficult and very demanding. Often this professionalism is not sufficiently recognised and respected and thus the sense of frustration is greatly increased.
- Adequate contingency system and organisational plan, to be activated promptly and safely in case of a mass casualty event.
- Adequate design of working hours. This includes shift duration, flexibility about part-time, dedicated time for training and research
- Adequate physical design. The ED should have adequate space related to patient numbers and the organisation of work, and be respectful of privacy for patients and professionals. It should also have space for isolation of patients. It should be suitable for disabled staff members, and provide security for patients and professionals.
- Adequate equipment. The ED should be equipped with furniture, medical devices, drugs, medical supplies, and protective personal equipment to enable safe working in an ethical manner for patients and professionals
- Adequate supporting infrastructures. Functional and customisable IT support is necessary to reduce administrative and bureaucratic burden and enhance efficiency and safety.
- Adequate space for rest and refreshment during shifts, in a calm and quiet place, with clean and dedicated toilets.
- Adequate facilities for parents with babies. A reasonable time before leaving maternity, protected time for breast feeding, nurseries and kindergartens are necessary
- Adequate equal opportunity hospital policies that are respectful and do not discriminate by race, religion, sex, allowing everyone the same chances of career and professional growth.
- Adequate psychological and emotional support. Emergency medicine is a stressful job, where professionals are exposed to sudden deaths, large numbers of patients, catastrophic events and pandemics. Prompt and competent support must be available to help staff coping with critical experiences.

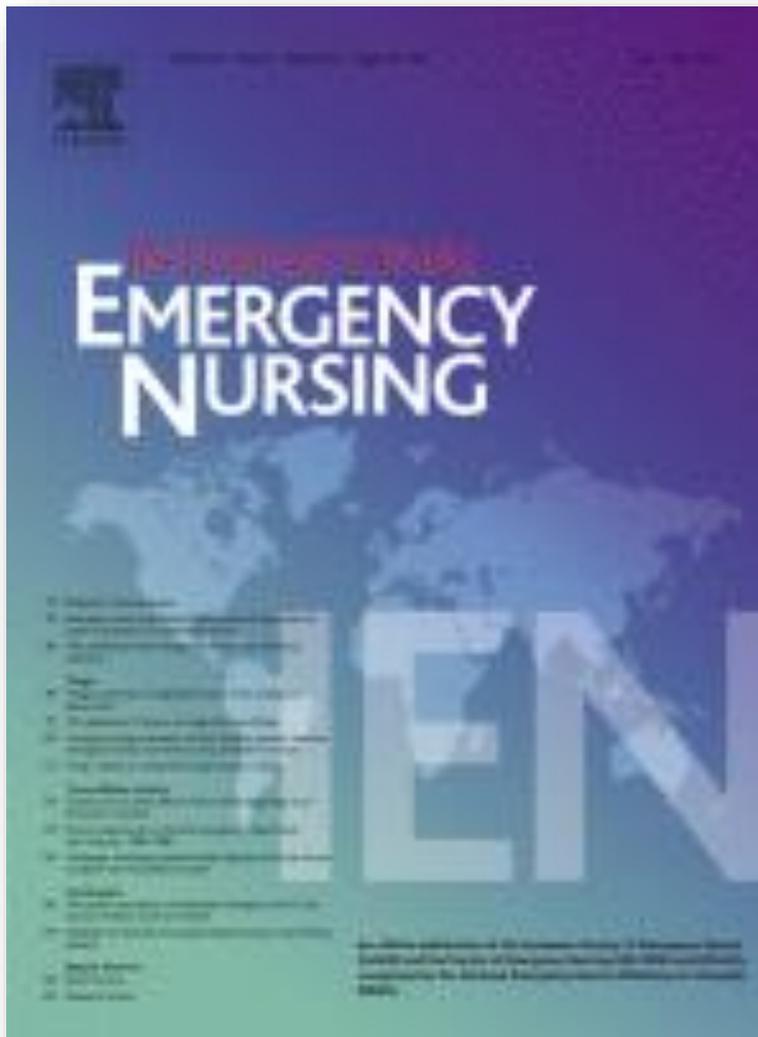
We hope that policymakers and healthcare administrators will heed our demands; it would be highly irresponsible to ignore the alarming situation that exists at present (3). If they do not, it is very likely that many burned-out EM professionals will leave their job, with catastrophic consequences for patients, particularly should there be a further pandemic.

References:

1. Petrino, Roberta; Riesgo, Luis Garcia-Castrillo; Yilmaz, Basakc *Burnout in emergency medicine professionals after 2 years of the COVID-19 pandemic: a threat to the healthcare system?*, *European Journal of Emergency Medicine*: May 27, 2022 - Volume - Issue - 10.1097/MEJ.0000000000000952 doi: 10.1097/MEJ.0000000000000952
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3. Khoury, Abdo *The day after Eur J Emerg Med.* 2020 Dec;27(6):392-393

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Then join the European Society for Emergency Nursing NOW!

The society's aim is to promote nursing activities in the field of emergency care

The Society's purpose is:

- *to promote science and art of nursing in emergency care
- *to promote contacts, exchange and cooperation between European emergency nursing associations
- *to represent emergency nurses within and outside of Europe
- *to draft and promote standards for training, implementation of the profession and management in the field of emergency nursing
- *to harmonize the training of emergency nursing across Europe
- *to promote cooperation with all healthcare professionals, institutions and organizations with a professional interest in emergency care
- *to promote basic knowledge about emergencies throughout the population.

EuSEN is a NON-Profit association. To be a member with EuSEN you need to be a member of a local or national emergency nurse association. The association needs to have local standards and official statutes.

Do you want to learn more about the EuSEN Please contact :

The President of EuSEN

Door Lauwaert

Post address: UZ Brussel, Emerg. Dpt, Laarbeeklaan 101, 1090 Brussels, Belgium

Or door.lauwaert@uzbrussel.be

To join us - Fill in the admission form on the next page.

www.eusen.org



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European Society for emergency Nursing

Application form EuSEN

Name of the Association

.....

Country.....

URL Website.....

Number of members.....

Does the association follow official statutes Yes No

The associations main purpose in emergency care

.....
.....
.....

Name of the President.....

Contact address, E-Mail and phone number
.....
.....

Second contact person of the association (if not the President is the contact person)

Contact address, E-Mail and phone number
.....
.....

Send the application form and relevant documents presenting your organization to:

The President of EuSEN Door Lauwaert

Post address: UZ Brussel, Emerg. Dpt, Laarbeeklaan 101, 1090 Brussels, Belgium

Or door.lauwaert@uzbrussel.be

www.eusen.org

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Dear future member,

If you want to support us developing EuSEN, you can become an individual EuSEN Member.

Membership fee for individual member had been fixed to **15€/year** by the EuSEN Board . This money help us to promote the association throughout Europe.

As an Individual Member, you'll be informed of any evenemential action of EuSEN and every publication, you'll also have member price for Congress supported by EuSEN and any promotional action held by EuSEN.

Individual Membership don't give the right to vote at the General Meeting Assembly (Only for the Association) and membership of EuSEN don't mean that you are member of all the European nurses associations.

WE NEED YOU, if you want to help us by becoming a individual member, fill the form (see website EuSEN) and the treasurer will contact you as soon as possible to give you information about the procedure to pay the annual fee.

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