

**COMMENTARY** .....

ON CALL MEDICAL ROSTERS: NEW APPROACHES SHOULD BE EXPLORED .... P962

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**EDITORIALS** .....

MOVING AWAY FROM SLAPPING AND PROMOTING EFFECTIVE DISCIPLINE TO RAISE  
HEALTHY CHILDREN IN IRELAND..... P963

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PREDICTING SPONTANEOUS PRETERM BIRTH..... P964

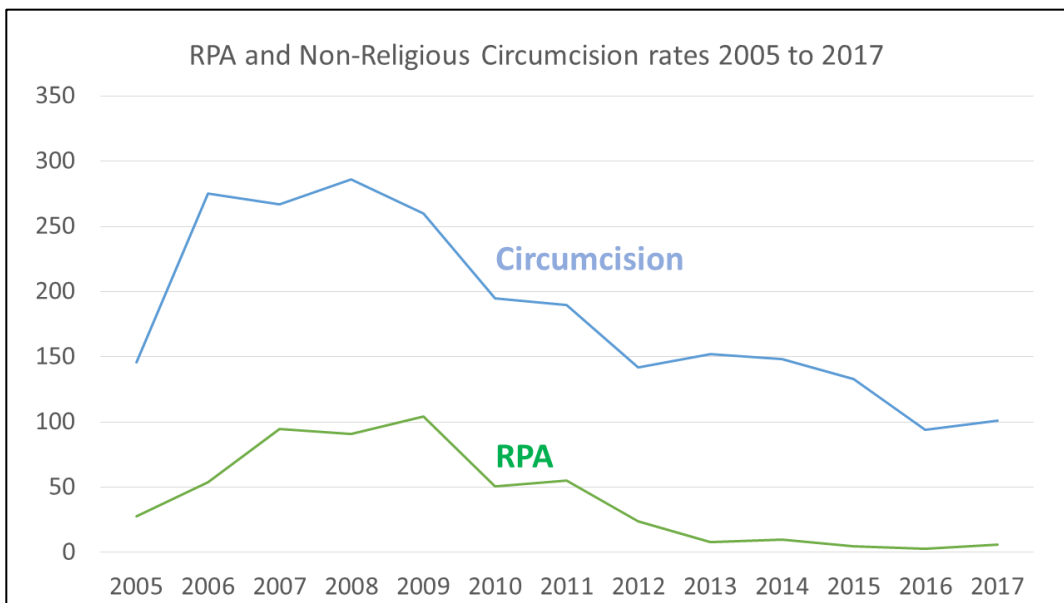
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**ORIGINAL PAPERS** .....

CIRCUMCISION RATES AFTER THE RELEASE OF PREPUTIAL ADHESIONS..... P965

Aworanti et al describe the release of preputial adhesions (RPAs) for phimosis. The technique was carried out on 534 boys. The authors state that it is an effective alternative to circumcision. Only 8.4% required a subsequent operative intervention.

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## VARICELLA RELATED HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS IN IRELAND ..... P966

McCarthy et al report that there were 2717 admissions with Varicella in the period 2005-2016. 62 children required intensive care due to the complications such as cellulitis, volume depletion, and streptococcal infection.

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Complication	n	% total complications
Cellulitis	246	32.40%
Volume Depletion	175	23.10%
Streptococcus Infection	145	19.10%
Problems related to lifestyle	59	7.50%
Convulsions	40	5.30%
Upper Respiratory Tract Infection	35	4.60%
Fluid/Electrolyte disorders	19	2.50%
Gastroenteritis	18	2.40%
Nausea & Vomiting	13	1.70%
Disorders of the orbit	7	0.90%

Table 3: Complicating diagnoses coded for in admissions with any listed discharge diagnosis of primary varicella zoster infection, 2005-2015

## DIETITIANS' ATTITUDES AND EXPERIENCES OF BLENDED TUBE FEEDING IN PAEDIATRICS..... P967

Blended tube feeding (BTF) is the provision of pureed foods via a gastroscopy tube. O'Sullivan et al report that it is a growing practice among dietitians. Professional training workshops are the preferred training method.

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Variable	Respondents (n/% Total)
<b>Perception of BTF<sup>a</sup> use</b> (n = 77/82 reporting)	
Definitely Recommend <sup>b</sup>	8 (10.4)
Might Recommend <sup>c</sup>	25 (32.5)
No opinion either way	22 (28.6)
Would not recommend	18 (23.4)
Advise against	4 (5.2)
<b>Willingness to Support</b> (n = 77/82 reporting)	
Yes-"I would be willing to support BTF patients"	36 (46.8)
No-"I would not be willing to support BTF patients"	5 (6.5)
Case Dependent-"Depends on the patient"	36 (46.8)
<b>Confidence to Support</b> (n = 77/82 reporting)	
Very-"I would feel confident to support BTF patients"	10 (13.0)
Moderately-"I may or may not feel confident to support BTF patients"	26 (33.8)
Not at all-"I would not feel confident to support BTF patients"	41 (53.2)

<sup>a</sup> BTF = Blended Tube Feeding.

<sup>b</sup> Definitely Recommend = RDs who would definitely recommend BTF to tube-fed patients.

<sup>c</sup> Might Recommend = RDs who may or may not recommend BTF to tube-fed patients.

## THE ROLE OF INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF OBSTETRIC AND GYNAECOLOGICAL HAEMORRHAGE ..... P968

O'Brien et al report on the application of arterial embolization on 22 women for obstetric and gynaecological haemorrhage. A variety of embolic agents were used, gelfoam being the commonest. The majority were performed under conscious sedation.

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## EXPLORING THE INTERFACE OF ONCOLOGY AND PALLIATIVE CARE ..... P969

Coleman et al have examined the working relationship between oncologists and palliative care physicians. Currently 53% of oncologists refer patients with advanced cancer to palliative care physicians. This finding is despite 84% of oncologists agreeing that patients would benefit from palliative care services. The authors recommend a greater integration of palliative care into clinical practice.

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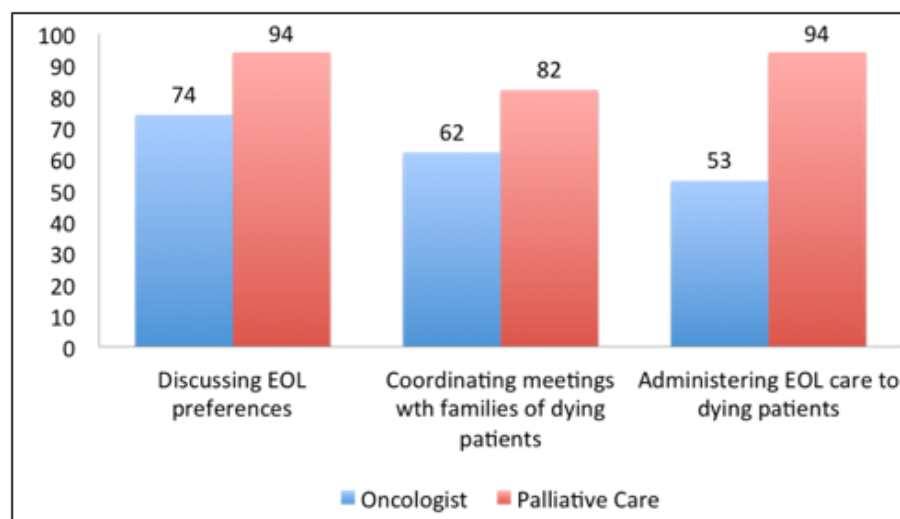


Figure 1: Comparison of frequency (percent) of daily/weekly administration of end-of-life (EOL) care between oncologist and palliative care physicians.

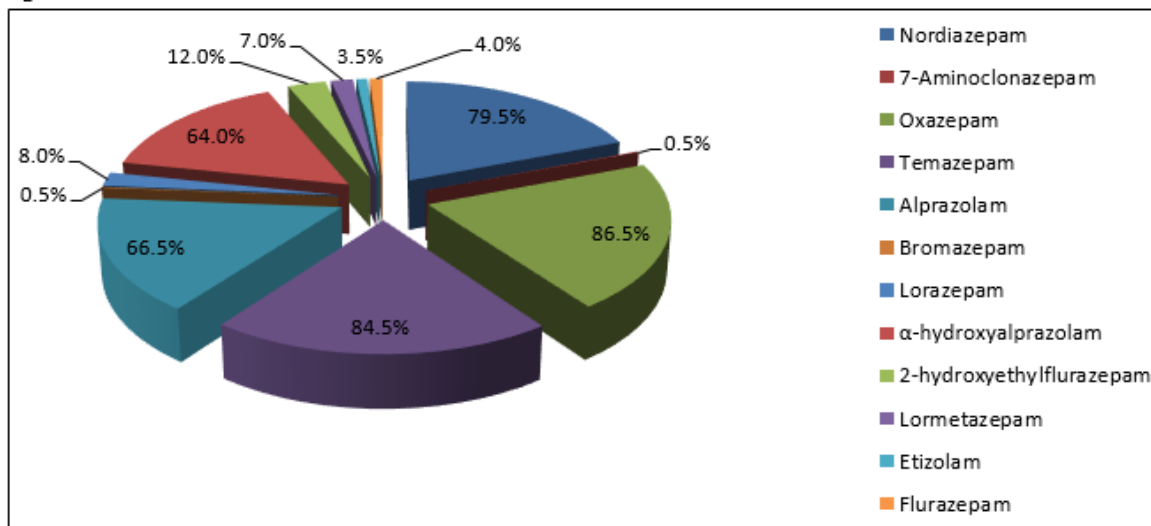
THE EMERGENCE OF NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE (NPS) BENZODIAZEPINES. A SURVEY OF THEIR PREVALENCE IN OPIOID SUBSTITUTION PATIENTS USING LC/MS

P970

McNamara et al highlight the concerns regarding the concerns about the new illicit benzodiazepines in the European drug market. The authors found that among 200 urine samples from patients attending the national drug treatment centre, 66.5% tested positive for alprazolam. In addition cases with the new benzodiazepine, etizolam (3.5%), were found. Etizolam has been implicated in 299 drug-related deaths in Scotland 2017.

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Figure 1



A PROSPECTIVE AUDIT OF INAPPROPRIATELY OCCUPIED HOSPITAL BEDS IN PATIENTS WITH NEWLY ACQUIRED TRAUMATIC SPINAL CORD INJURY..... P971

Smith and Synnott state that traumatic spinal cord injury (TSCI) has an incidence of 13 per million in Ireland yearly. There are concerns about the delay in the transfer of TSCI patients to rehabilitation and back to their communities. In their study, the authors found that 4000 bed-days had been lost. Improvement in the delivery of services for TSCI patients is urged.

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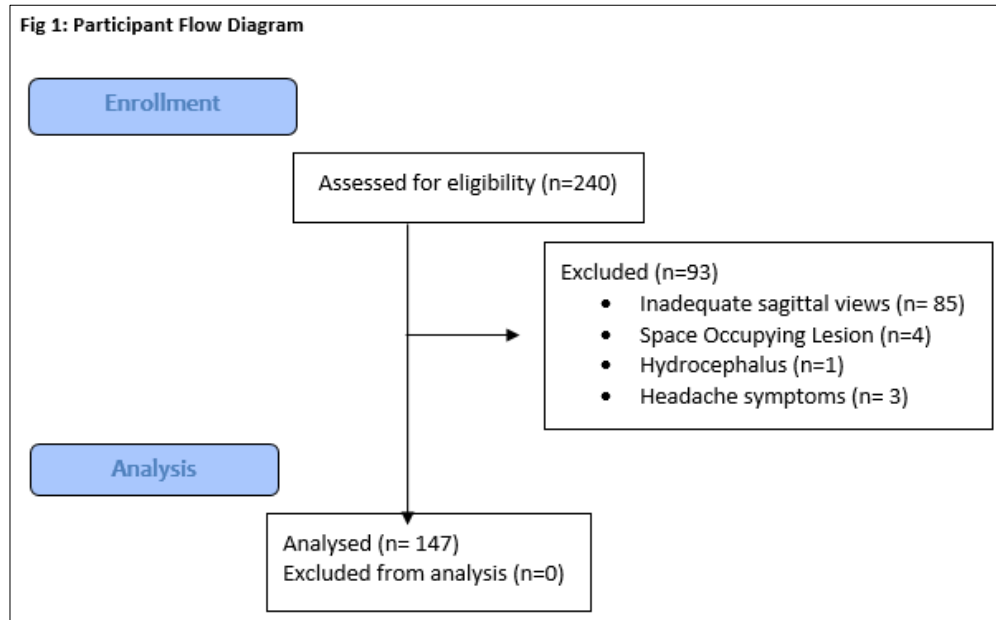
**Table 1. Number of bed-days inappropriately used during the acute care and rehabilitation of 44 patients with traumatic spinal cord injury, acquired in 2017**

No. of bed-days awaiting admission from a local/regional hospital to National Spinal Injuries Unit (N=33)	78
No. of bed-days in an acute hospital awaiting admission to the National Rehabilitation Hospital (N=44)	3126
No. (%) of these bed-days spent in NSIU	629 (20.1%)
No. (%) of these bed-days spent in other acute hospital	2497 (79.9%)
Estimated no. (%) of bed-days awaiting admission in an acute hospital for rehabilitation due to lack of isolation facilities (N = 6)	402 (12.9%)
No. of bed-days lost at the end of rehabilitation awaiting discharge (N=44)	711
Total no. of bed-days lost throughout acute & rehabilitative care (N = 44)	3915
Discharge locations:	
Home	35
Nursing Home	2
Return to acute hospital	7

## INCIDENCE OF ASYMPTOMATIC CHIARI MALFORMATION ..... P972

O'Reilly and Torreggiani report that the incidence of asymptomatic Chiari malformation is 2%. The authors conclude that a tonsil herniation of up to 5 millimeters may be an incidental and inconsequent finding.

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## RESEARCH CORRESPONDENCE .....

### THE ADMINISTRATION OF NALOXONE: SOCIAL CARE WORKER PERSPECTIVES AND EXPERIENCES ..... P975

Deacy and Houghton discuss the issues around the introduction of a successful Naloxone program. Naloxone is increasingly been used to treat opiate related overdoses. One in two heroin addicts will die from an overdose. The study illustrates the challenges faced by social workers involved in drug overdoses.

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**Table One: Four Themes Identified Through Thematic Analysis**

Theme	Quotation
A) Stress	<i>"It's a very stressful event. The first overdose that I was involved in that required CPR and naloxone was a bad one. The client was not responding to the naloxone, and didn't respond to any of the naloxone that we administered...so when they left with paramedics we were not sure that that person was going to make it so that was quite a stressful one..."</i>
B) Burnout	<i>"I find especially if an overdose happens at the start of a shift and you have forty clients then to look after, by the end of the shift you are burned out by the time you go home."</i>
c) Support	<i>"I have done PFA once after it was a fatal overdose, and that's why I did PFA. But if they're like non-fatal... when you know the person is going to be okay, then usually I wouldn't... I would decline it."</i>  <i>"Talking to a supervisor or someone like that, that has never responded to an overdose before. I just feel like I'd struggle with that because, I'd be like, you don't know what I'm talking about. It does be like talking to a wall"</i>
D) Training	<i>"I did training in naloxone... maybe two and a half years ago. Since then we actually haven't had it [again], which I think is a shame... because we have high levels of overdoses happening... I think we should have refreshers at least every six months"</i>

## OCCASIONAL PIECES .....

### THE MODIFIED SARNAT SCORE IN THE ASSESSMENT OF NEONATAL

### ENCEPHALOPATHY: A QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE ..... P976

Power et al describe the Sarnat score, a clinical tool in the assessment of neonatal encephalopathy. An accurate neurological examination is central to the optimal care of this group of infants.

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Severity	Stage 1 (mild)	Stage 2 (Moderate)	Stage 3 (Severe)
Level of consciousness	Hyperalert	Lethargic / Obtunded	Stupor or coma
Activity	Normal	Decreased	Absent
<b>Neuromuscular Control:</b>			
Muscle tone	Normal	Mild hypotonia/hypertonia	Flaccid/rigid
Posture	Mild distal flexion	Strong distal flexion	Intermittent decerebration
Tendon reflexes	Overactive	Overactive	Decreased or Absent
<b>Complex reflexes:</b>			
Suck	Weak	Weak/absent	Absent
Moro	Strong, low threshold	Weak, incomplete, high threshold	Absent
Tonic neck	Slight	Strong	Weak or absent
<b>Autonomic Nervous System:</b>			
Pupils	Dilated pupil	Constricted pupil	Variable: often unequal, poor light reflex, fixed, dilated
Heart rate	Tachycardia	Bradycardia	Variable
Respiratory rate	Regular	Periodic breathing	Apnoea
Seizure	None	Common; focal or multifocal	Uncommon (excluding decerebration)
* Asymmetric tonic neck reflex: Elicited by rotating the head to one side. In a complete response, the ipsilateral arm and leg will extend and the contralateral arm and leg will flex, producing the "fencing" posture.			

## CASE REPORTS .....

### A CLASSIC CASE OF PANTON-VALENTINE LEUCOCIDIN-METICILLIN-RESISTANT

### STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS (PVL-MRSA) ..... P973

Fitzgerald et al describe an index case with PVL-MRSA discharging furuncle on his neck. Two other family members were also found to be colonized with PVL-MRSA. In addition to antibiotic therapy, decolonization was achieved with chlorhexidine 4% and mupirocin 2%.

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## SHORT REPORTS.....

### DISTANCE AS A BARRIER TO MELANOMA CARE..... P974

McCarthy et al report that cases with melanoma presented to their hospital at a more advanced stage than the national average. 45% presented with a depth greater than 4mm compared with the national average 12.9%. The authors suggest a number of measures that could be used to achieve earlier detection rates.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR .....

### RECRUITMENT OF NEW CONSULTANTS ..... P977

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### OPT-OUT ORGAN DONATION - A PATIENT ORGANISATION'S PERSPECTIVE... P979

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### FATAL PROPIONIC ACIDEMIA: A CHALLENGING DIAGNOSIS ..... P980

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