• To promote the role of POONS in paediatric palliative care and disseminate best practice in paediatric palliative care
• To provide networking opportunities for members
• To support members
• To disseminate information
• To educate members and others in the care of children and young people with cancer
• To work closely with PONF and others in the care of children and young people with cancer.

Paediatric Oncology Clinical Practice Group
This group was established in June 2000 to collaborate on projects relating to clinical practice and provide guidance, information and support to members of PONF.

Aims
• To develop information and guidance of symptom management.
• To work collaboratively with the UKCCSG on research projects

Paediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Nurses Group
The group is the national voice as paediatric specialist nurses working within bone marrow transplant. The group meets twice a year to work on national guidelines, benchmark practice, produce information booklets and audit practice. National study days for nurses working in BMT take place twice a year.

Aims
• Production of national guidelines
• Production of information booklets
• Audit
• Benchmarking
• National education.

Teenage Cancer Trust Multi-disciplinary Forum
This multidisciplinary group working with the Teenage Cancer Trust (TCT) aims to raise the profile of the needs of and service provision for teenagers / young people with cancer.

Aims
• To facilitate an annual national conference for teenagers and young people (and their friends)
• Bringing together of clinical expertise from many centres and disciplines. Supporting, developing and advising, through reflection on practice.
• Providing information and education to national groups on the needs of young people with cancer.

Childhood Cancer Research Nurses Group (CCRNG)
The group exists to support research nurses in the field of paediatric oncology both on a practical and professional level by providing a network of contacts. This promotes liaison between individuals and so provides a means by which information can be shared and problems regarding clinical trials can be aired. The group provides support and guidance for the new research nurses, and aims to address aspects of professional role development, education and accountability.

Aims
• Practical and professional support
• Communication between units and individuals
• Sharing of information and expertise
• Exploration/discussion of nursing and ethical issues regarding research in children with cancer
• To provide a point of contact for nursing and medical colleagues regarding the provision of research nurse posts.

To find out more about PONF or any of the specialist groups please contact the current Chair of PONF Louise Soanes at - Louise.Soanes@rmh.nhs.uk

Or go to our webpages in the Children and Young Peoples Zone on the RCN website (www.rcn.org.uk/cypzone).
Paediatric Oncology Nurses' Forum

PONF was formed in 1983 by nurses working in paediatric oncology who recognised the need for mutual support and sharing knowledge and experiences, in a rapidly developing speciality. PONF now has over 2000 members.

PONF is one of the groups within the RCN Children/Young People’s Field of Practice (C/YP FoP). These groups are aided by the Paediatric Nurse Advisor who keeps in touch with the work of all the Forums and Specialist Groups working within the C/YP FoP, and also acts as a link between these groups and the work/initiatives of Regional, Country, UK, European and International groups regarding children’s health and welfare. We also have a Forum Organiser at the RCN.

PONF is funded partly through the RCN and partly from grants/donations from reputable drug companies. All accounts are audited by the RCN and regular statements are available to the Steering Group (and membership on request).

Aims
- develop nursing practice across the breadth of the specialty
- influence the development of service guidance for children and young people with cancer
- raise the profile of children and young people with cancer on the national and local cancer agenda
- provide a range of activities to meet the needs of the Forum membership
- involve users in policy and practice development in the specialty
- maintain, develop and strengthen inter-professional collaboration
- establish international links with other paediatric oncology nursing groups.
- work within the field of practice for children and young people in pursuit of strategic objectives.

There are four communication pathways PONF communicates with members, and how members can communicate with PONF: Bulletin, the webpage, Link Members and the PONF Conference.

Bulletin
Is PONF’s newsletter and is published twice a year and is an excellent way of sharing practice/ideas and asking questions to over 2000 paediatric oncology nurses for free! Please contact Angela Houlston angela.houlston@orh.nhs.uk if you would like to write something for Bulletin.

Webpages
Are to be found on the RCN Children and Young People’s Zone at www.rcn.org.uk/cypzone PONF and each of the specialist groups has a webpage here.

Link-member
Each regional United Kingdom Childhood Cancer Study Group (UKCCSG) centre has two link-members. Link-members are expected to be active PONF members supporting PONF’s work, participating in meetings and feeding back to PONF’s membership. The key purpose of this role is to ensure that nurses working in regional centres and shared care units are kept up to date with PONF’s activities and that local membership needs/interests are reflected in PONF’s work.

Conferences
PONF is involved in many conferences such as the RCN FoP conference run jointly with other nurses working with Children and Young People, International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP), the International Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Update Meeting (IPHOUM) and of course the biennial PONF conference.

PONF’s work and activities are co-ordinated by the Chair and Steering Group, supported by the Link Members, members of working parties and the Chairs and members of the specialist groups.

Working Parties
There are a number of these, some looking at PONF work alone and others in conjunction with UKCCSG. Places on all working parties and volunteers for other work are advertised at Link-members’ meetings, in Bulletin and on PONF’s webpage.

Paediatric Oncology Nurse Education Group (PONE)
The group is made up of academics, lecturer practitioners and practice educators involved in paediatric oncology. The purpose of the group is to share education programmes in order to learn from best practice and maintain the parity and equity of the programmes.

Aims
- Ensure all members are fully informed of current courses/training
- To work with other groups to develop new initiatives
- To identify projects for new ways of working.

Paediatric Oncology Outreach Nurse Specialists Group (POONS)
The POONS group is composed of nurses providing outreach services for children and young people with cancer, from the point of diagnosis through to cure or palliative and terminal care. POONS are based at either a regional UKCCSG paediatric oncology centre or a paediatric shared care unit.

The group has a national chair and secretary. Due to increasing numbers the group is divided into four regional groups, which meet twice a year. Each regional group has a chair who attends the annual core group meeting.

Aims
- To promote the role of POONS nationally and internationally to healthcare professionals, social workers, educationalists and voluntary groups.