PCCS CONFERENCE 2026

Abstract Submission Guidance &

PICSTAR Proposal Submission Guidance

Each year PCCS invites the submission of abstracts for conference presentation relating to the practice of PCC. We focus on novel clinical or scientific work and on teaching and innovations in practice. Our aim is to promote research and clinical innovation but also to offer experience to more junior members of staff in training. We encourage submission from all members of the PCC multidisciplinary team.

Presentation types: This year, you can choose to submit standard Abstracts and/or PICSTAR Proposals. Detailed guidance for each category is provided below.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDANCE

Submission and selection: Abstract submission and selection are managed centrally by the PCCS Science and Education Committee. Abstract submission is organised electronically via the conference website, and the submission system is overseen by the Secretariat. Abstracts are anonymised and peer reviewed by an independent panel (including members of the Science and Education Committee, the PCCS-SG chair and invited external reviewers). Scoring criteria will be based on: Importance, Methodology and Applicability to practice. The submitting authors will be informed of the outcome of their submission by the Conference Secretariat.

At a glance:

Abstract submission opens	7 April 2026
Abstract submission deadline	31 May 2026
Abstract scoring results	Week of 13th July 2026
Submission route	https://www.pccslondon2026.co.uk/abstracts Go to PCCS 2026 Abstract Submission Portal Select Presentation Type: **Abstract – Poster** only OR **Abstract Oral** only OR **Abstract - Either**
Who can apply	Open to all
Presentation Types	**Long Oral presentations** (10 min): 12 spaces **Short Oral Presentations** (5 min): 24 spaces **Poster Presentations** (5 min): 48 spaces **E-Posters**: Browsable on computer screens throughout the conference

Notes:

1) Each author/co-author is allowed a maximum of five abstract submissions.
2) Word limit: Title (50 words), Main text (300 words).
3) Abstracts with incomplete/scanty results will not be scored by the panel.
4) Uploads: PDF file with main text; Image file (PNG, JPG, TIFF) with one figure/table
5) All delegates offered a presentation slot or poster must register (and pay) for the conference at least four weeks before the Conference.
6) By submitting the abstract, you understand that accepted posters/presentations will be made publicly available on the conference website.

PICSTAR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION GUIDANCE

Competition opens	7 April 2026
Submission deadline	31 May 2026
Submission route	https://www.pccslondon2026.co.uk/abstracts Go to PCCS 2026 Abstract Submission Portal Select Presentation Type: PICSTAR Proposal
Eligible project types	National multicentre audit or service evaluation only
Who can apply	Resident doctors, nurses, or AHPs working in PICU, HDU, or Retrieval Services
Number of finalists	Three shortlisted teams
Presentation at PCCS 2026	6-minute presentation + 4-minute Q&A per finalist (30-minute lunchtime session)
Winner announcement	At PCCS 2026, London
Prize	PICSTAR support to deliver the project nationally + oral presentation slot at PCCS 2027

Eligibility

Who can apply?

- Resident doctors (any grade) working in PICU, HDU, or retrieval services
- Nurses working in PICU, HDU, or retrieval services
- Allied health professionals (AHPs) working in PICU, HDU, or retrieval services

- Applicants may be based at any NHS trust in the UK, including district general hospitals with HDUs

Project requirements

- Projects must be national multicentre audits or service evaluations
- QI projects and research studies are not eligible for this competition cycle
- **Projects should evaluate current practice in paediatric critical care, critical care retrieval or high-dependency care, and ideally have the potential to inform a future QI project or change in practice**
- Data collection must be achievable within a 8-12 week window
- A confirmed local clinical supervisor (consultant-level) is required at the time of submission
- Local trust registration as a service evaluation or audit is mandatory once project is successful - PICSTAR will provide a template letter if required and help recruitment multiple sites

How to Submit

All submissions must be made via the PCCS 2026 Abstract Submission Portal at:

pccslondon2026.co.uk/abstracts

When submitting, select the abstract category:

"PICSTAR Proposal"

IMPORTANT

Do not submit your proposal under the standard Abstract Poster only, Abstract Oral only, Abstract - Either categories. **It must be submitted under the PICSTAR proposal category to be considered for this competition.**

What to Include in Your Submission

Your abstract submission should address all of the following. Maximum 300 words.

1. Project title

A clear, descriptive title for your proposed project.

2. Proposed project type

- National multicentre audit or National service evaluation

3. Proposed project question

State clearly the question your project sets out to answer.

4. Background and rationale

Summarise what is already known in this area and why your proposed project is needed. What gap does it address?

5. Aims and objectives

State the overall aim and specific objectives of the project.

6. Proposed methodology

- Study design (audit or service evaluation)
- Proposed data collection approach
- How the project could be delivered across multiple sites nationally
- Estimated data collection period (must not exceed 8-12 weeks)
- Proposed data submission platform and methods (e.g. Redcap, Qualtrics)

7. Proposed participating sites & members of the team

PICUs, HDUs, Retrieval services. Can be collaborative across all services.

8. HRA decision tool outcomes

https://www.hra-decisiontools.org.uk/ethics/ use tool

10. Why should this project be selected?

What makes your project clinically important, nationally feasible, and likely to have an impact on practice?

11. References

Selection Process

All eligible submissions will be reviewed by the PICSTAR committee. Panel members with a direct involvement in a submission will declare this and abstain from scoring that proposal.

Proposals will be assessed across the following domains:

- Clinical relevance and importance to paediatric critical or high-dependency care, Retrieval services
- Scientific and methodological quality
- Feasibility and deliverability within the competition timeline
- Scalability and potential for national reach
- Potential impact on clinical practice
- Quality of the written proposal

In the event of tied scores, greater multidisciplinary representation on the project team will be used as a tiebreaker.

SHORTLISTING

Three finalists will be selected and notified in advance of PCCS 2026. Finalists are expected to attend PCCS 2026 in London to present their proposal in person. Attendance costs are the responsibility of the applicant; PICSTAR and PCCS are unable to fund travel or registration.

Presentations at PCCS 2026

The three finalists will present their project proposals during a dedicated 30-minute lunchtime session at PCCS 2026. The format for each presenter is:

Component	Duration
Project proposal presentation	**6 minutes**
Questions from judging panel	**4 minutes**
Total per finalist	**10 minutes**

The winner will be selected by the judging panel at the conclusion of the session and announced at PCCS 2026.

What the Winner Receives

- Named PICSTAR mentor(s) assigned to support the project from selection through to completion
- PICSTAR network support for national site recruitment across PICUs, HDUs, and retrieval services
- Template service evaluation registration documentation for participating sites
- PICSTAR letter of support for local trust registration
- Structured milestone check-ins throughout the project year
- Signposting to statistical support and analysis guidance
- PICSTAR social media amplification and network communications throughout
- **Oral presentation slot at PCCS 2027 for the completed project**

PLEASE NOTE

No funding is offered by PICSTAR or PCCS in connection with this competition. This includes travel, registration, or research costs. The project lead retains full ownership and first authorship of any outputs arising from the project.

Competition Rules

1. The project lead must be a resident doctor, nurse, or AHP working in PICU, HDU, or retrieval services at the time of submission.
2. Projects must be classified as a service evaluation or audit. Research projects requiring REC approval are not eligible for this competition cycle.
3. A confirmed local supervisor (consultant or equivalent) must be named at the time of submission.
4. Data collection must be completable within a 8–12-week window.
5. Canvassing of the PICSTAR committee or selection panel is not permitted.
6. PICSTAR committee members with a direct involvement in a submission will abstain from the review of that submission.
7. Once the winning project is approved and launched, the project lead is responsible for ensuring that each participating unit registers the audit/service evaluation via local processes and the project lead should request registration numbers from each unit. PICSTAR will assist with multi-site reach and recruitment.
8. If the winning project lead is unable to continue (e.g. change of post, withdrawal from training), the runner-up will be offered PICSTAR support.
9. Submission of a proposal constitutes agreement to these rules.

Timeline

7 April 2026	Abstract portal opens - submissions accepted
31 May 2026	Submission deadline (portal closes)
June 2026	Shortlisting by PICSTAR committee
Early July 2026	Three finalists notified
Autumn 2026	PCCS 2026 - finalist presentations and winner announced
2026–2027	Winner delivers national project with PICSTAR support
PCCS 2027	Winning project presented as oral presentation

This competition is run in association with the Paediatric Critical Care Society (PCCS). Abstract submission is managed through the PCCS 2026 conference portal. Please note that no funding is provided by PICSTAR or PCCS in connection with this competition. This includes travel to PCCS 2026, conference registration, and any costs associated

with delivering the project. Applicants are responsible for securing any necessary funding independently.

Contact and Further Information

For queries about the abstract submission process, please contact **simon@unified-events.co.uk**

For queries about the PICSTAR competition or submission process, please contact the PICSTAR team: **picstar.network@gmail.com**