



2026 MND Professionals' Community of Practice Networking Event

Holistic care – from the beginning to the end

Date: 6 October 2026.

Venue: National Conference Centre, Birmingham



The MND Professionals' Community of Practice Networking Event has been approved by the Federation of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom for 5 category 1 (external) CPD credits.

This event has also been certified by The CPD Accreditation service.

This event is a unique opportunity for you to network with fellow professionals and to actively learn with and from them about key areas of MND care. You will gain valuable knowledge and skills to apply in your practice.

The theme this year is Holistic care – from the beginning to the end. We kick off the day with a keynote speech by Dr Idris Baker who will present 'Beyond Symptoms: The power of holistic care in MND'. Dr Baker will set the scene for the day before launching into a day of information, knowledge and networking.

You then have a choice of stimulating competency sessions led by subject experts covering key areas for people living with MND. You will choose which competency sessions you attend when you book your place.

"It's such an informative day and vital to improve clinical practice to inform MND Care. Never underestimate the power of networking."

- 2025 event attendee



Keynote Speaker: Dr Idris Baker

National Clinical Lead for Palliative and End of Life Care, Swansea, Co-Director MND South Wales Care Network.



Beyond Symptoms: The power of holistic care in MND

Idris Baker is a Consultant in Palliative Medicine in Swansea, working in community palliative care, including local MND clinics.

He is an Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer at Swansea University Medical School, an Honorary Senior Lecturer at Cardiff University, and a Visiting Academic at Amsterdam University.

His interests include person-centred, value-based healthcare; the development of palliative care in non-malignant disease; and the ethics of decision making in palliative care and diminished autonomy. He regularly contributes to education for undergraduate and postgraduate audiences, including health professionals, on topics in palliative care and clinical ethics. He enjoys a bit of debate and was once denounced to the press by an opponent as “genuinely wicked.”

This keynote explores why holistic care is essential in MND, where needs evolve over time and extend beyond physical symptoms. It highlights the importance of integrating physical, cognitive, emotional and social support to preserve dignity and quality of life, and encourages reflective, person-centred practice that supports individuals and their families.

Competency sessions

Choose which four sessions you want to attend when you book.

1. So, what happens now? Supporting carers post diagnosis

Carers play a crucial role in the care of people living with MND. This session challenges us to consider and discuss the impact diagnosis has on carers, and the implications of it for them. We will explore how we might best understand and support carer needs.

3. Not helping, not working or not wanted - withdrawal of treatments

Supporting people living with MND to take decisions to discontinue treatment. To include how we coordinate messages – being certain what we are trying to do with the decisions – supporting people with MND to make positive purposeful decisions.

2. Complex decisions in nutrition management

Exploring how to support the people living with MND and make clinical decisions when swallowing is compromised. This session will discuss eating and drinking at acknowledged risk (EDAR) and gastrostomy

4. It's great when a plan comes together - environmental controls and wheelchair adaptations

A session exploring how to ensure that adaptations and equipment link up and work well together to improve the quality of life of people living with MND.

5. Assisted Dying

Exploring the implications of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill for people living with MND, their families and professionals, including its impact on practice and the ethical, emotional and professional challenges it presents.

7. Conversations – how, where and when

In this session we will explore having purposeful conversations as and when they arise, for example what to do with the ‘doorstep’ or ‘car door’ chats when patient and carers opinions or needs differ.

6. Facing bereavement as a health and social care professional – self-care and team support when patients die

An exploration of professionals’ experiences of patient death. And a consideration of ways to cope with and recover after the bereavement of the person living with MND and their family.

8. Recognising and safeguarding vulnerable patients

An exploration of the factors such as, communication safeguarding concerns, cognitive change or FTD, and physical weakness such as flail arm, which may make a patient vulnerable. And how to provide best safe care when these are apparent.



Programme

8.30am–8.50am	Arrival and coffee
8.50am–9.00am	Welcome and opening remarks Anthony Hanratty, Community of Practice Chair
9.00am–9.45am	Keynote: Beyond symptoms: the power of holistic care in MND Dr Idris Baker
9.45am–9.55am	Collect refreshments and move into first competency session
9.55am–10.55am	Competency session 1
10.55am–11.20am	Comfort break
11.25am–12.25pm	Competency session 2
12.25pm–1.00pm	Lunch, networking and demonstrations
1.10pm–2.10pm	Competency Session 3
2.10pm–2.35pm	Comfort break
2.40pm–3.40pm	Competency Session 4
3.45pm–4.00pm	Conference close and evaluations



Demonstrations and exhibitors

During the lunch break, you will be able to talk to therapy experts, see demonstrations of various equipment and get hands on with it.

As in previous years, we will be joined by a range of exhibitors, giving you a chance to become familiar with products which may be useful for people with MND. More details to follow.



The Venue



National Conference Centre
Coventry Road,
Bickenhill, Solihull,
West Midlands B92 0EJ

By car:

J6 of the M42, follow signs to The National Motorcycle Museum from all approach roads. Postcode B92 0EJ.

Free parking on site, including charge points for [electric cars](#) and disabled parking.

Birmingham City Centre – 20 minutes drive
Central Manchester – 2 hours drive
Central Leeds – 2 hours drive
Central Bristol – 2 hours drive
Central London – 2 hours drive

By train:

Nearest station is Birmingham International – 5 minute taxi journey

Other stations:

Birmingham New Street – 25 minute drive
Birmingham Snow Hill – 20 minute drive
Solihull – 10 minute drive

We look forward to meeting you!

If you have any queries in advance of the event, please email CoP@mndassociation.org

Event website coming soon.