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# Exploring and Understanding the Management of Acute Kidney Injury in Primary Care

Dr Tom Blakeman  
Dr Naveed Ghaffar  
Prasanna Hanumapura  
Deryn Waring

*Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC) Greater Manchester*



Who	Suggested Content	Time
Dr Naveed Ghaffar	Introduction and brief background information on AKI (general stats). Case study of patient who's AKI was not detected by regular GP.	10 mins
Prasanna Hanumapura / Deryn Waring	Explain how patients are managed in hospital including at point of discharge	15 mins
Dr Tom Blakeman	Brief review of this work and links to national initiatives (RCGP toolkit) Explain how patients could be managed post discharge and provide example of a CCG project in Bury.	15 mins
Dr Naveed Ghaffar	How do we improve post discharge care in Manchester?	20 mins



## Introduction to AKI

- Definition ?
- How Important is it ?
- Do primary care teams need to be aware? Why ?
  
- Hospital death /yr UK  
100,000
- Prevented  
30%
- Number admitted AKI  
1/5
- Kidneys make urine  
50%
- Community AKI  
2/3

(<https://www.thinkkidneys.nhs.uk>)



## Case study

73 Yr M

AF, HTN CKD 3a

Bisoprolol, Ramipril

Had some routine bloods, but had been having diarrhoeal illness

Came to see me for review a week later - GP said "routine review "

Cr 145 GFR 40 otherwise ok

What's going on ? When should action have been taken? What should have been done?

*( Nice Guideline CG169 AKI )*

## AKI Staging (Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes, KDIGO criteria<sup>1</sup>)

AKI Stage	Serum Creatinine	Urine Output
<b>Stage 1</b>	Increase in serum creatinine by $>26\mu\text{mol/L} \leq 48 \text{ hrs}$ <b>OR</b> an increase in serum creatinine by $\geq 1.5 \times \text{baseline}^2$	urine output $<0.5\text{mL/kg/hr}$ for 6-12hrs
<b>Stage 2</b>	Increase in serum creatinine by $\geq 2 \times \text{baseline}^2$	urine output $<0.5\text{mL/kg/h}$ for $\geq 12\text{hrs}$
<b>Stage 3</b>	Increase in serum creatinine by $\geq 3 \times \text{baseline}^2$ <b>OR</b> an increase in serum creatinine by $\geq 1.5 \times \text{baseline}$ to $> 354 \mu\text{mol/L}$	urine output $<0.3\text{mL/kg/h}$ for $\geq 24\text{hrs}$ <b>OR</b> anuria for $\geq 12 \text{ h}$

<sup>2</sup> **When creatinine change** is known or presumed to have occurred **within previous 7 days**

<sup>1</sup> Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) Acute Kidney Injury Work Group. KDIGO Clinical Practice Guideline for Acute Kidney Injury. Kidney International Supplement 2012;2(1):1–138.







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# AKI Clinical Nurse Specialist: A potential link between primary and secondary care ?



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# Tackling In-Hospital Acute Kidney Injury

## The Manchester Acute Kidney Injury Team(MAKIT)

Dr Leonard Ebah, Prasanna Hanumapura & Deryn Waring



## Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) at MFT

- AKI occurs in 1 in 4 Acute Admissions at the MRI
- 60% are Community acquired
- 40% are Hospital acquired

Challiner *et al.* *BMC Nephrology* 2014, **15**:84  
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2369/15/84>



**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

**Open Access**

### Incidence and consequence of acute kidney injury in unselected emergency admissions to a large acute UK hospital trust

Rachael Challiner<sup>1\*</sup>, James P Ritchie<sup>2</sup>, Catherine Fullwood<sup>3</sup>, Paul Loughnan<sup>4</sup> and Alastair J Hutchison<sup>5</sup>



# We were no better at MFT in 2013/14

## Sub-standard AKI Care prior to 2014

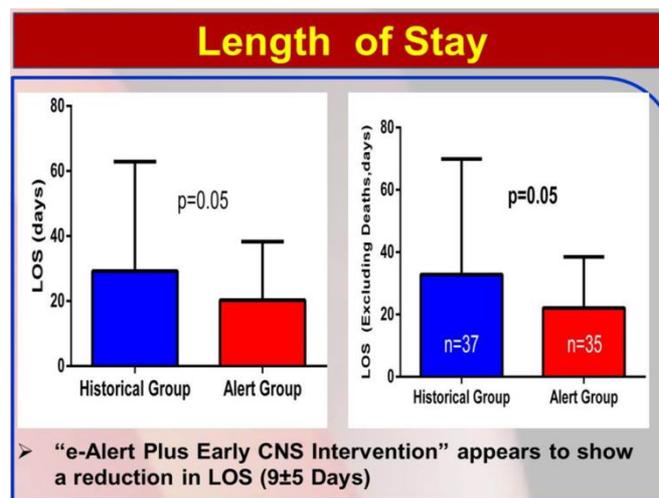
KEY MANAGEMENT	MISSED/ NOT DONE
Urine Dipstick	78%
Recognition of AKI	50%
Fluid management	60%
Drug Review	52%
Investigations	11%
Renal Referrals	15%
Ultrasound Scan	11%
Catheterisation	16%





## 2014

- AKI Lead and Full Team
- Project was part of a Consultant Development Programme
- Quality Improvement supported by MAHSC
- Early impact on LOS:





## Help available:

Let us sort  
out AKI  
@CMFT



Guidelines

E Alerts

Public  
Campaign

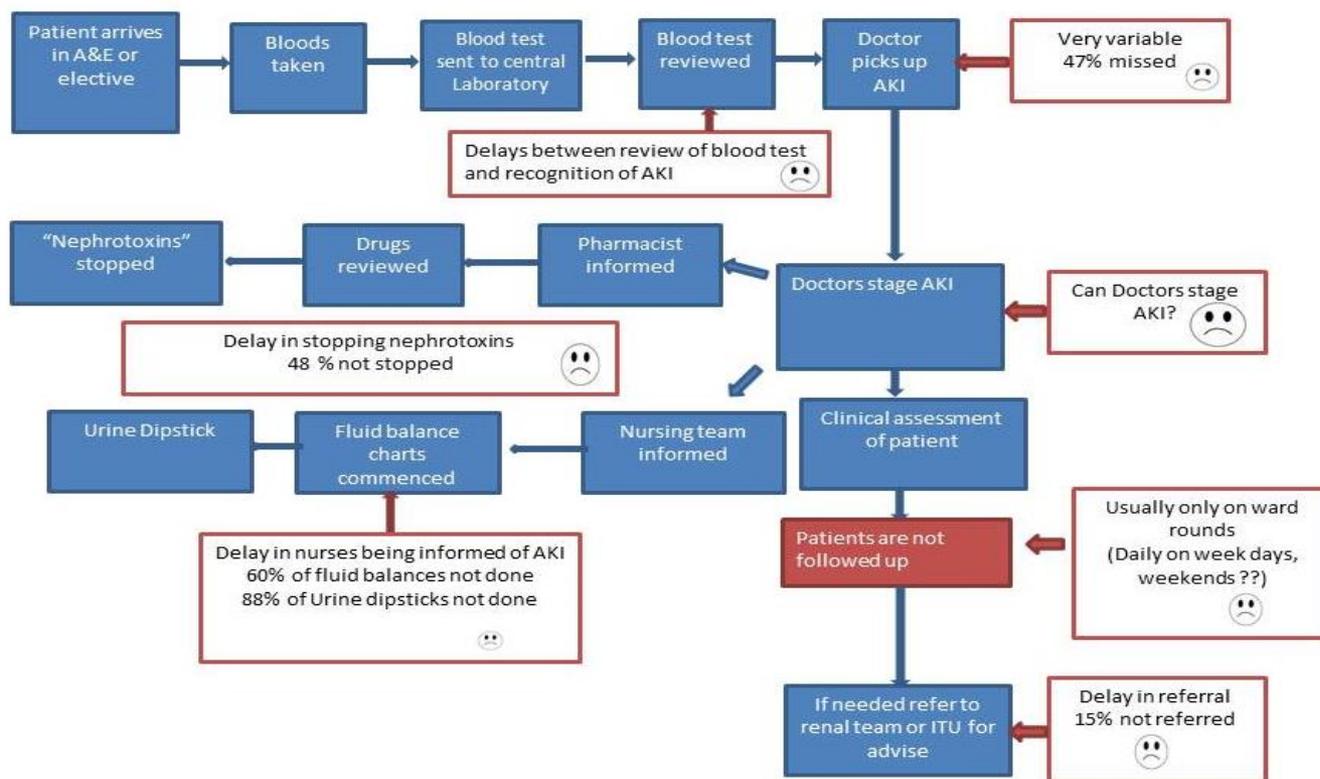
Meetings

Sharing  
practices

AKI  
Campaign

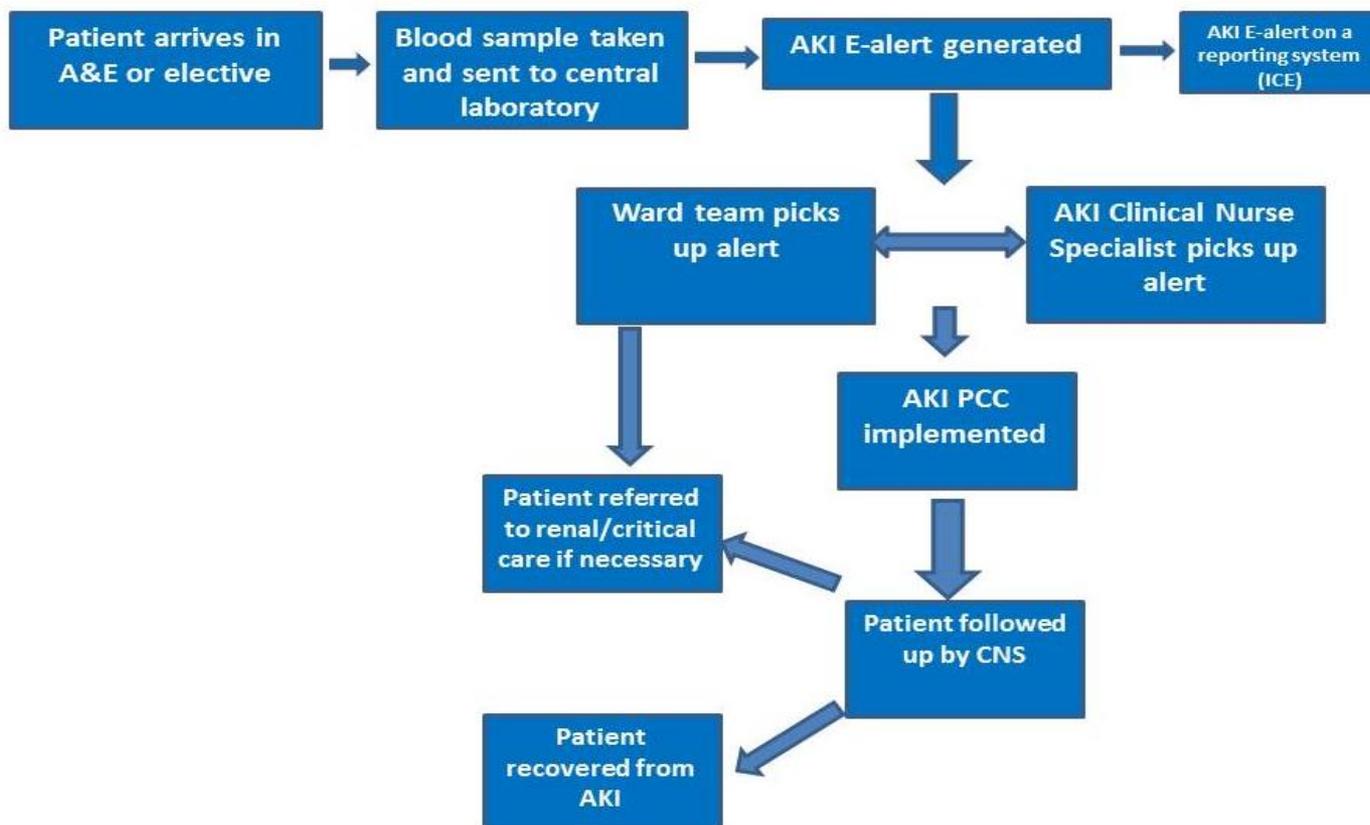


# Pre-2014 AKI Patient Journey





## New streamlined process map for AKI Care





# Improvement Activities

**ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY PRIORITY CARE BUNDLE (PCB)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital No: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cr Result: \_\_\_\_\_ Baseline Cr: \_\_\_\_\_ (Date: \_\_\_\_\_)  
 Ward: \_\_\_\_\_ PCB Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Doctor to tick when completed**

Priority Care Action	Tick	Guidance
1. Ascertain baseline creatinine (Lowest in last 6 months)	Done	Document possible causes in medical notes *
2. Identify cause for AKI	Done	Minimum of daily fluid assessment
3. Perform fluid assessment	Done	1 - Sepsis Markers # 2 - Venous Bicarb or ABG *
4. Investigate for cause & consequences	Done	1 - All stage 3 2 - Obstruction suspected
5. Consider catherisation	Done	1 - All stage 3 2 - Suspected obstruction (NICE Guidelines < 24hrs)
6. Renal & bladder ultrasound scan	Done	1 - Stage 3 Unclear Cause 2 - Suspected intrinsic Renal Disease 3 - No Improvement > 24hrs 4 - Dialysis may be required
7. Consider referral to renal	Done	1 - Strict intake and output chart until further notice 2 - Dialysis weights
8. Fluid balance charts	Done	1 - MSSU/Infection Suspected 2 - 2+ protein Send Urine-PCR
7. Perform & document urine dipstick	Done	1 - Stop nephrotoxins (ACE-I, ARB, NSAID) 2 - Dose review (antibiotics, diuretics, LMWH)
10. Perform drug review	Done	

Position Bleep: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor Name/Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Refer to Acute Kidney Injury Guidelines under Resources on Trust Intranet.  
 # Refer to Sepsis Guidelines



**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE**  
Creatinine Alert Summary

Table to compare the output of the local algorithm with the output of the national algorithm based on the criteria selected.

Local Alert Via	AKI 1	AKI 2	AKI 3	Not Alert	Not Alert	Not Alert	Total
Stage 1	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Stage 2	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Stage 3	0	2	2	0	0	0	4
Total	5	2	2	1	0	0	10

Report Type = Change; shows the result with the highest ratio per spell where Result between 01/03/2015 and 02/03/2015 (please note for OP, results are grouped by referral episode)

Referral Episode	Value of Creatinine	Referral Episode	Change	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert
56	76	MS1019139	7622.1389	02	NA	17/03/2015	NA	558	*****	0.00	*****	195.9	479	NA	Low 4400-7000	1.5	0.0	13	Yes
1084	1084	MS1019140	7622.1389	02	NA	17/03/2015	NA	579	*****	0.00	*****	137.8	315	NA	Low 4400-7000	1.08	0.0	13	Yes

Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

staffnet/

Staffnet > Home

Home | Departments | Forms | Policies | Resources | Directory | Applications

**Announcements**

**THINK KIDNEYS** NHS

'Think Kidneys' is a national programme led by NHS England in partnership with UK Renal Registry

New Electronic Alert launched to tackle AKI  
A new e-alert for users of CWS and ICE will launch in January

**Popular Links**

- Trust Appraisal Process
- Security Services
- UptoDate
- Central Island Site Map

**Events**

- Being a CI
- Pilates - C
- Medicine C
- ADPH C-Unit
- Thal Inspir
- Positive AC
- Places A&J
- Christmas
- St Mary's 1
- Junieah P

**Classifieds**

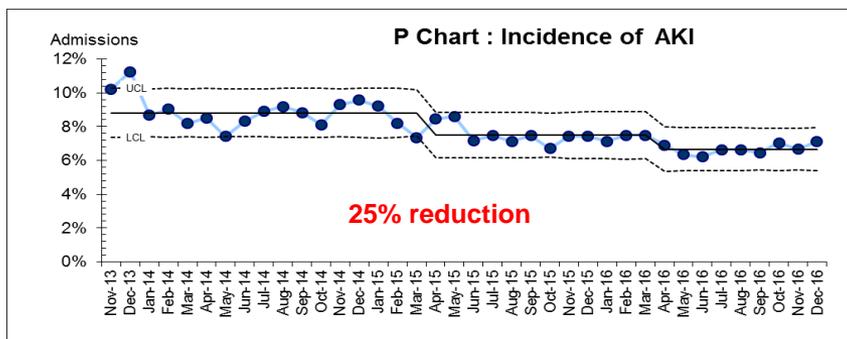
- Golf clubs,
- Sat of the
- New xbox
- 2015 Dian
- Wanted p
- Carvela H
- Kurt Giege
- Baby toys
- Wedding c
- Large bag

**staffnet Poll**  
Have you heard Resolution Trail feature in WOLF

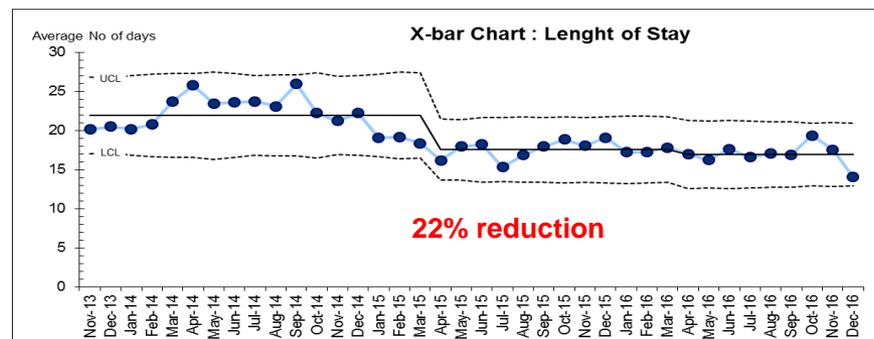


# Results

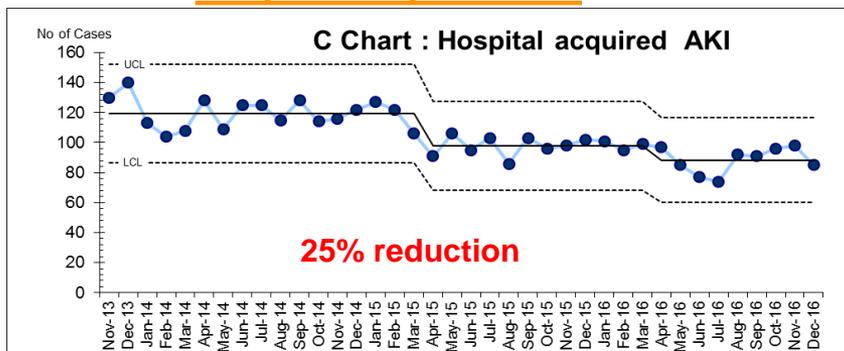
## AKI Incidence



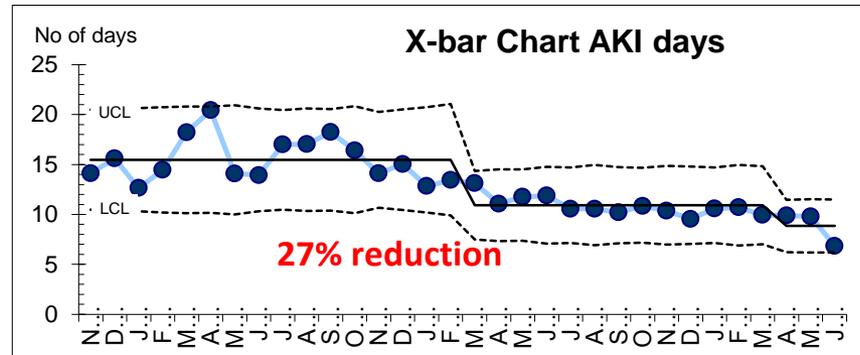
## Length of stay



## Hospital-acquired AKI



## AKI days





## Patient admitted for a elective total Knee replacement

Day 1 : Pre Op - Cr 134

Day 2 : Post Op- Developed Chest Sepsis and became anuric and Hypotensive with  
Cr 341 ( AKI stage 3 )

Patient was picked up by AKI Nurses on the rounds and reviewed by CNS and AKI PCC was implemented including USS

Patient was referred to renal and transferred to Ward 37 where they had 1 session of dialysis and patient renal function improved.

Day 4 : Cr 100 with no further need for dialysis.

LoS : 13 days

AKI days : 4 Days



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Open Access

BMJ Quality Improvement Programme

Submitted from  
**BMJ** Quality

## A Multifaceted Quality Improvement Programme to Improve Acute Kidney Injury Care and Outcomes in a Large Teaching Hospital

Leonard Ebah, Prasanna Hanumapura, Deryn Waring, Rachael Challiner, Katharine Hayden, Jill Alexander, Robert Henney, Rachel Royston, Cassian Butterworth, Marc Vincent, Susan Heatley, Ged Terriere, Robert Pearson, Alastair Hutchison

Improvement Science for Academics (IS4Ac)

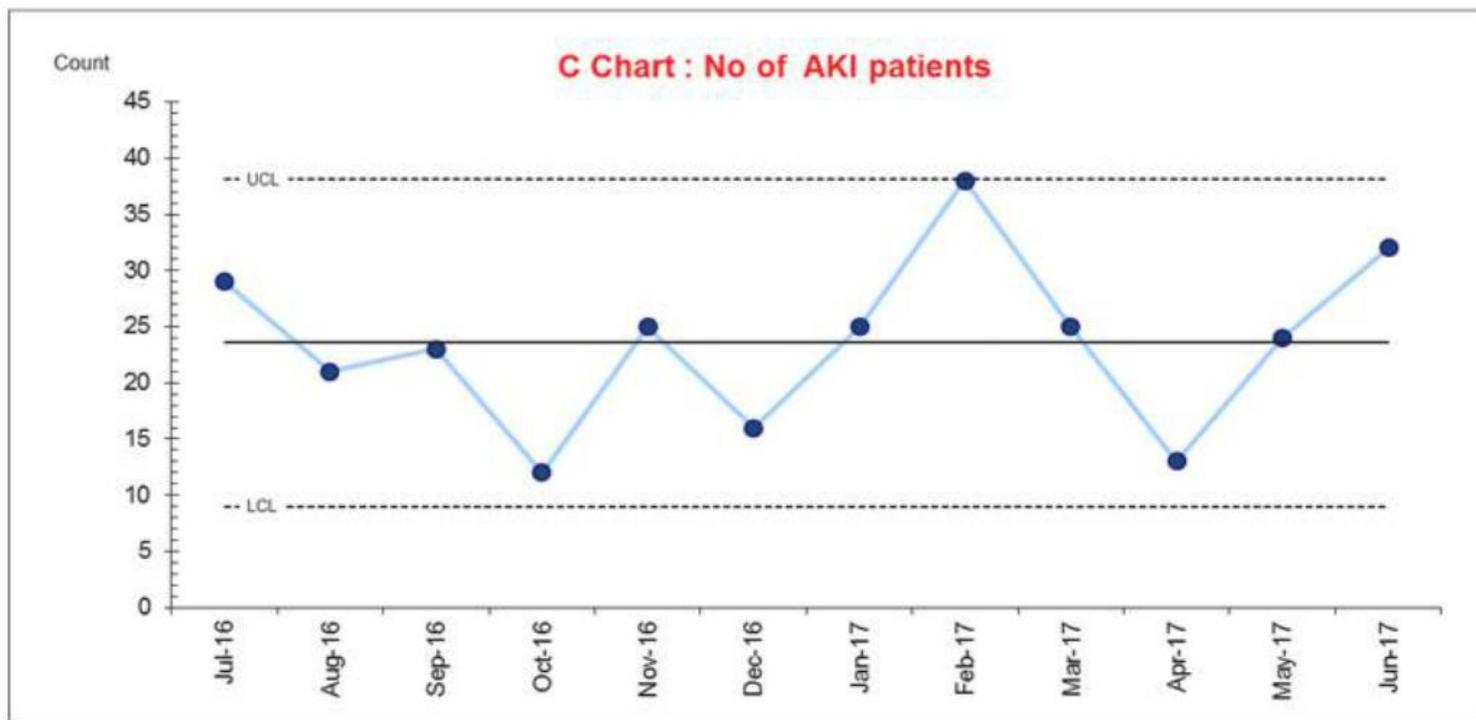


## Manchester AKI Project: a CLAHRC:MHCC CCG collaboration

- Generating list of AKI patients in 4 GP practices in the community
- Providing data on patients who had AKI during their hospital stay
- Involved in the discussion sessions at the GP practices
- Feedback to the trust from the learning sessions at the practices



## AKI alerts for GP Practices Blood test





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Change is the end result  
of all true learning.

Leo Buscaglia



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# MAKIT



*If you want to go fast, go alone; If you want to go far, go together*







Royal College of  
General Practitioners



***National Institute for  
Health Research***

Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health  
Research and Care - **Greater Manchester (CLAHRC GM)**

**Kent Surrey Sussex  
Academic Health Science  
Network**



**ACADEMIC HEALTH  
SCIENCE NETWORK**  
NORTH EAST AND NORTH CUMBRIA



**Healthcare  
Improvement  
Scotland**

**‘THINK  
KIDNEYS’**

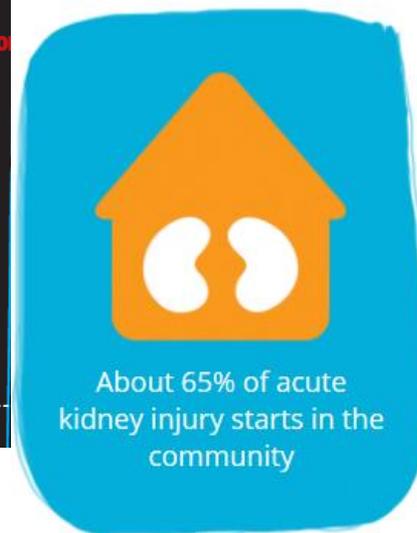


**Education  
for  
Scotland**

**RCGP AKI Quality Improvement  
Project Partners**

## Acute Kidney Injury

- Common
- Harmful
- Costly
- Treatable
- Potentially Avoidable



NM Selby et al 2012

# Is AKI a marker of poor health outcomes?

## Hospital Admission complicated by AKI

1020 patients admitted 2 x DGH in Wales

- **Increased Mortality**

Within 14 months of the AKI episodes  
50% had died (287 in-hospital deaths)

- **Increased CKD Development/Progression**

> 33% had de novo CKD or progression of pre-existing CKD

- **Increased Rehospitalisation**

492 Rehospitalisation events within 6 months after discharge



Wonnacott et al, 2014 Clin J Am Soc Nephrol 9: 1007



Manchester Health & Care Commission

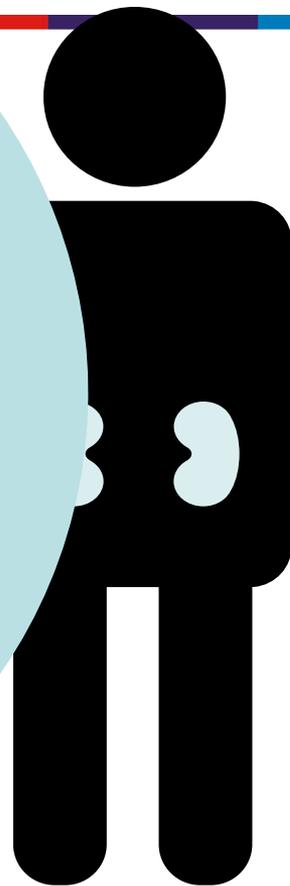


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AKI



Context



Manchester Health & Care Commission



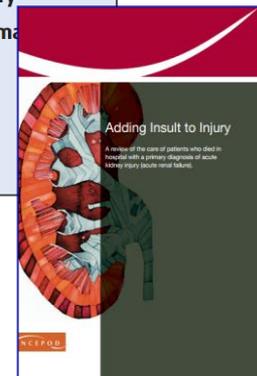
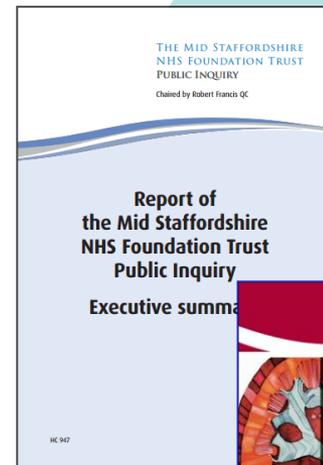
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# Ensure Safer Transitions of Care

Context



Excellence in Patient Outcome and Experience

CLAHRC Greater Manchester



## Acute Kidney Injury: A need to improve transitions of care?

RESEARCH ARTICLE Open Access

Acute kidney injury as an independent risk factor for unplanned 90-day hospital readmissions 

Simon Sawhney<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Angharad Marks<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Nick Fluck<sup>2</sup>, David J. McLernon<sup>1</sup>, Gordon J. Prescott<sup>1</sup> and Corri Black<sup>1,2,3</sup>

**18.6% unplanned readmissions  $\leq$  90 days**

‘AKI is a strong, consistent and independent risk factor for unplanned readmissions – particularly readmissions with acute pulmonary oedema

Pre-emptive planning at discharge should be considered to minimise avoidable readmissions in this high risk group’

Sawhney et al, BMC Nephrol 2017;18: 9

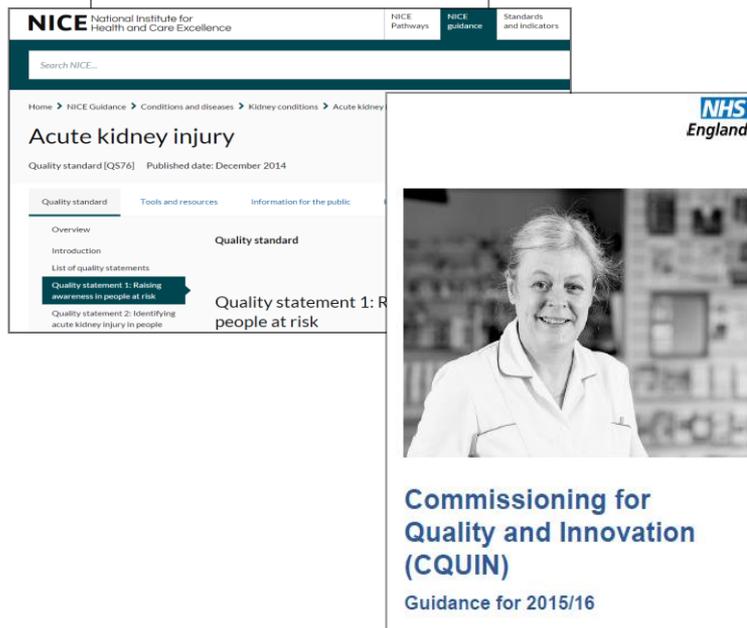
## Post-AKI care: Recommended best practice

### Structures

- Develop AKI Registers in primary care

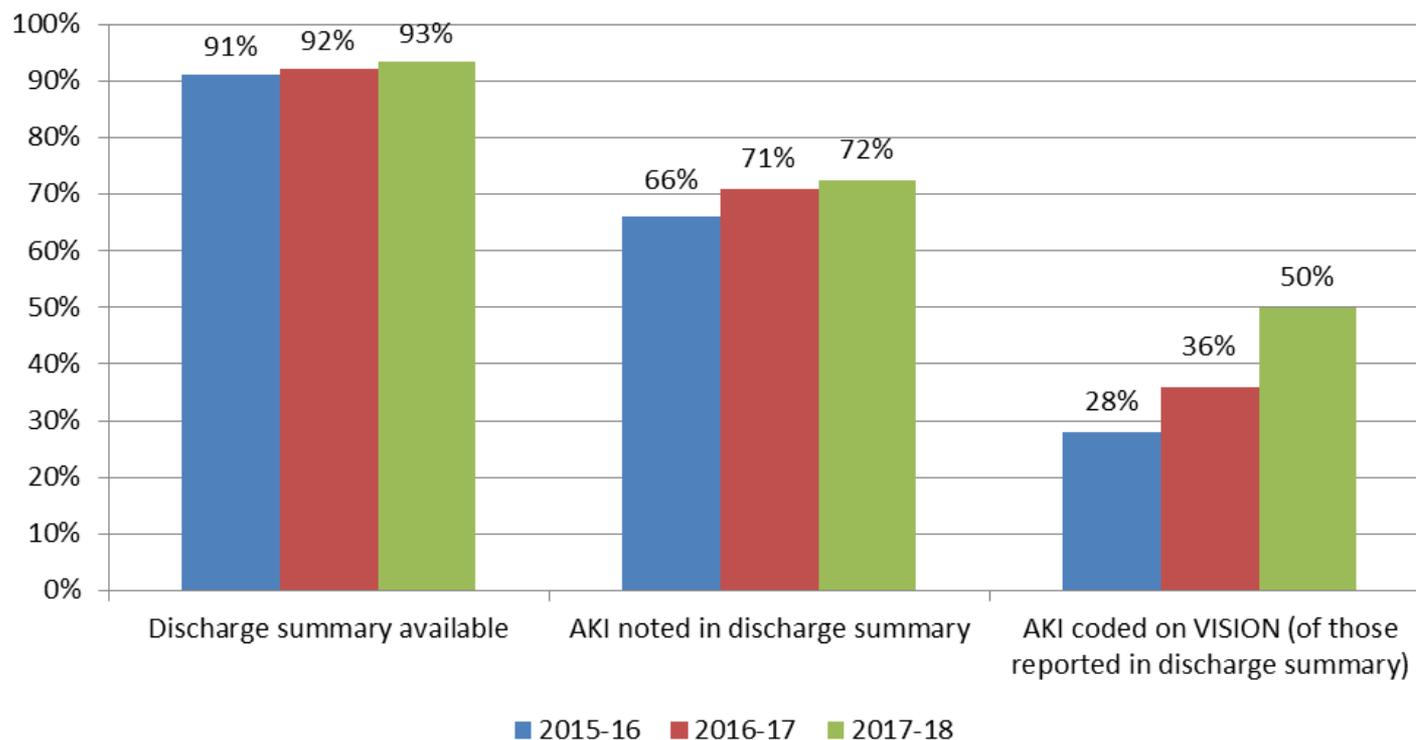
### Processes

- Stage of AKI
- Evidence of medicines review
- Type of blood tests required on discharge for monitoring
- Frequency of blood tests required on discharge for monitoring





## Gaps in diagnostic coding: The Bury Post-AKI care project



Percentage of episodes of admissions complicated by AKI with discharge summary available, AKI noted in discharge summary and AKI Read coded, Bury CCG (2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18)





## Key Principles: A Model for Learning & Improvement

- Develop evidence based interventions grounded in an in-depth understanding of routine clinical practice
- Maximise clinical utility of AKI as a driver of quality & safety whilst minimise treatment burden for patients unnecessary clinician workload
- Support system resilience through collaborative working across the interfaces of care

# Step 1: AKI Case Note Reviews:

Acute Kidney Injury  
Safety Toolkit for Learning & Improvement  
Case note review templates

Tick if not documented	What went well? Are there any improvements for further comments?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Within the last 24 hours
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bleeding from catheter - sent to pathology, admission
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patient withheld as inpatient. Not stopped when at home
<input type="checkbox"/>	Urea raised - no quality of Renart, Lumbamide, no BP
<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the patient need function on discharge?

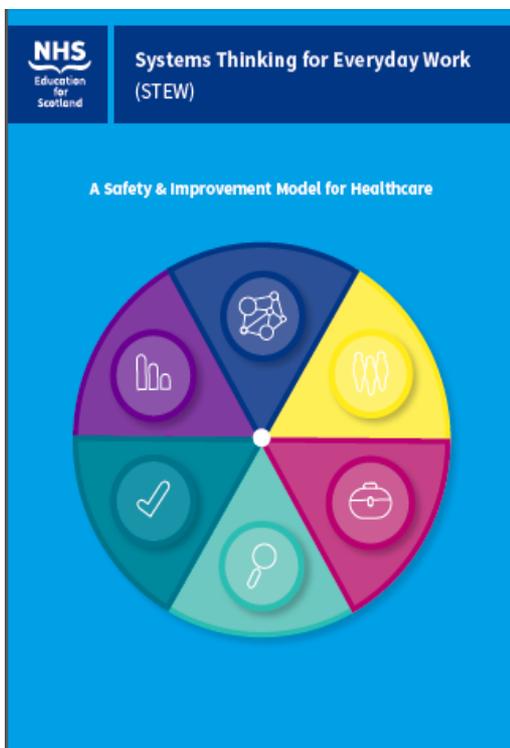
Does the patient have a catheter?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Has the patient been graded with a plan of care?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Has the patient consent to access the restricted Summary Care Record (SCR) been obtained?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Has the restricted SCR been obtained?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

## Aims

- Highlight patient safety learning opportunities across care interfaces
- To promote learning from real-life cases, rather than audit or criticise current practice
- Aid reflection to create plans for improvements in future care



## Step 2: Systems Thinking for Everyday Work



### Aims:

- Generate learning through understanding everyday work

### Applied STEW Framework within:

- Practice
- Regional
- National



# Systems Thinking

NHS EDUCATION FOR SCOTLAND SAFETY, SKILLS & IMPROVEMENT

## Systems Thinking for Everyday Work (STEW) Worksheet Post-AKI Care

**People constantly have to vary how they do work to achieve successful outcomes due to changing system conditions.**  
Explore the workarounds and trade-offs  
Explore the difference between work-as-imagined and work-as-done

**Discharge planning**  
WAI - Current policy recommendations (ODUM): 1) Stage of AKI; 2) Med review; 3) Type of blood test required on discharge; 4) Frequency of blood test  
WAD - Suggested workarounds: Better hand over required to reduce uncertainty and help determine the urgency of response. To achieve this, greater clarity required on: 1) AKI stage and cascade; 2) baseline and discharge SCr; 3) changes and reasons for medication changes; 4) blood pressure at discharge; 5) evidence of communication with patients & carers.  
Also, suggest hospital organise blood test and GP follow-up on discharge (e.g. asper nurse follow of dressing) to ensure timely follow up, reduce patient burden in terms of reduced practice visits and more helpful subsequent review with GP/Pharmacist.

**Post-AKI care process and outcome data:** Low numbers of patients at practice level - benefit from aggregate data (e.g. OOH, Outset) to understand impact of work

**Consider the overall system rather than focusing on isolated parts, events or outcomes.**  
Agree boundaries  
Agree purpose of system and parameters for success  
Purpose: AKI as a marker of frailty/vulnerability;  
Recognition that AKI work is largely in the context of caring for people with complex health and social care needs.  
AKI: an acute problem, but which informs future management

**Boundaries:** Common priorities to improve post-AKI care:  
1. Coding AKI an important step to enhance subsequent primary care management  
2. Work to improve communication with patients  
3. Work to ensure tailored and timely follow-up  
4. Work to become a 'kidney conscious' practice: safer prescribing; better communication; better response to crises

**Explore the experiences and views of all people who work in the system to better understand the work system and change implementation issues.**

**ROGP Quality Improvement project 2017-2018:**  
1. Learning generated through 148 case note review conducted in 24 general practices across England and Scotland  
2. Reflections, actions and improvements considered to address patient factors; professional factors; role of practice team; role of secondary care; other systems issues  
3. Case note reviews discussed at practice meetings, including joint meetings with staff (AKI nurse specialists from secondary care).  
4. Learning also generated through a workshop as well as a shared learning event comprising nephrologists, GPs, AKI specialist nurses, pharmacist, biochemist, medical student, patient representatives

**Explore how conditions, interactions and personal and team goals at the time influenced decisions.**  
Be wary of hindsight bias. Avoid blaming 'human error' and promote a 'Just Culture' - understand what happened, support those involved and improve work systems to reduce the risk of recurrence.  
Identifying opportunities for better information exchange: E.g. Case where OOH team did not have access to full records - identified need to use 1) enrich summary care records (Key Info/Summary); 2) communicate with patients that might get an OOH call

**Consider how different activities interact and how flow is affected.**  
When making changes consider the impact on overall system functioning

**Key priority: Being able to determine the urgency and timeliness of follow up**  
Workload shifts: Additional work required to manage the uncertainty created by variable discharge summaries - 'digging' for information to piece it together takes time, e.g. find baseline and discharge serum creatinine. Generally 'acquiesce' to request from secondary care (e.g. when to repeat blood).  
Flow: Practice protocols and embedding AKI patient CSQR into care planning procedures (i.e. New or review of care plan; need to be part of GP locum pack)

**Bottleneck - Accurate Diagnostic coding** ('Beholden to what the junior doctor was writing')  
1. Practice Protocol help flow with coding and follow-up. However, dependent on the quality of the discharge summary -> a need for greater clarity

**Bottleneck - Timely medication review**  
1. No documentation on reasons for changes to medication and often a lack of guidance on follow up including when to consider restart stopped medication  
2. Delays in 'fast direct communication' affected medication review - can lead to patients restart meds that have at home without guidance, add to the confusion  
3. Takes time to organise patient to come into practice - Practice Pharmacist taken on work but constrained by not doing home visits to complex households

**Bottleneck - Communication with patients**  
1. Tendency to be unclear what has been discussed during admission - kidneys not part of 'public consciousness' e.g. patients with CKD not aware of AKI risk  
2. AKI nurse specialists communicate AKI diagnosis with patients but usually at a time of critical illness and not then involved in care at time of discharge

**Explore varying demand and capacity, how resources (e.g. equipment, information and time) and constraints (qualifies, protocols) influence work-as-done.**  
Identify leading indicators of impending trouble  
Divine how conditions of work influence staff wellbeing

**Demand**  
1. Anxieties over opening up a 'Pandora's box' of new work v formulating existing work that has been part practice for decades  
2. Feedback also that currently low numbers and therefore balance between manageable work v insufficient to be a priority

**Capacity**  
1. AKI seen as a marker of vulnerability & frailty and therefore align with existing practice approach to care planning  
2. Aligned with duties of Practice Pharmacists - aware of relevance of kidney function in conducting med reviews. But caution to ensure realistic medicine approach rather than protocol driven care

**Resources**  
1. Local incentive enabled practice buy-in to AKI work in context of competing priorities (work of educational events, audit, action plan)  
2. Embedding Think Kidney resources/guidelines into IT systems  
3. Polypharmacy guidance to help decisions to restart/stop-prescribe  
3. Structure for creating a practice level action plan (i.e. Q) resources

**Constraints**  
1. Lack of structure to follow-up - No practice plan for dealing with AKI  
2. Variable documentation/communication from secondary care (e.g. 'GP to follow up') no reasons for change in med





## Foundation Concept: Purpose & Boundaries

### Purpose

- A marker of vulnerability/frailty

### Boundaries of work

- Work to improve diagnostic coding
- Work to determine urgency of follow-up
- Work to become a 'kidney conscious' practice
  - Safer prescribing
  - Better communication
  - Better response to episodes of acute illness



## A 'Kidney Conscious' Practice

*'I think probably as a practice we have become generally more kidney-conscious.... ....So I think the fact that we've perhaps, certainly, flagged notes and things...hopefully it's just that going through the back of people's minds, of thinking twice before you prescribe something. Or when you do prescribe it, you give that little bit of extra advice. If something like this happens, this is what you need to do'*

Bury GP 04

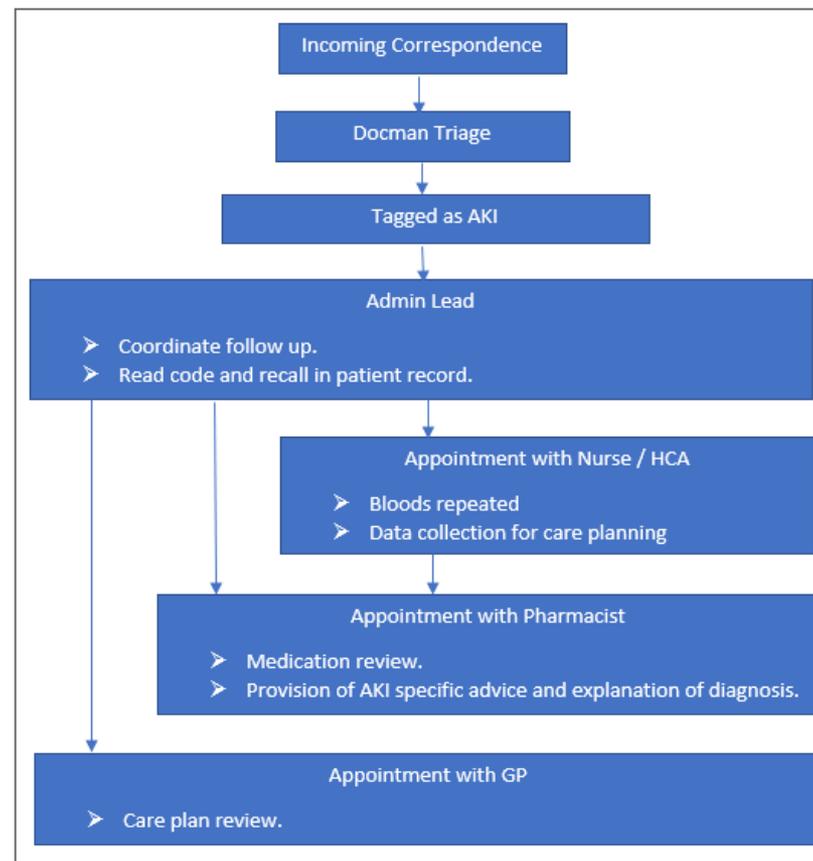
## Consider Work Conditions

### Demand

- Opening 'Pandora's Box' v Formalising existing work
- Manageable numbers v Insufficient to be a priority

### Capacity

- Embed AKI work into existing approach to care planning
- Align with skill-set of Practice Pharmacists



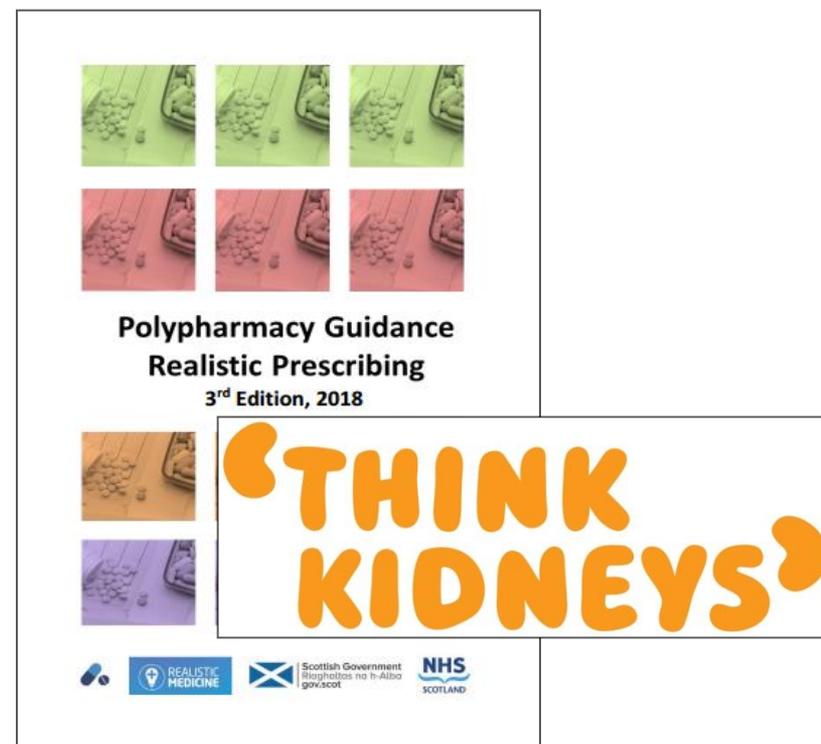
## Consider Work Conditions

### Resources

- Local incentive enabled buy-in
- Embed Think Kidneys resources into IT systems
- Polypharmacy guidance to support decisions to restart or de-prescribe

### Constraints

- Lack of practice protocol
- Variable information exchange
  - Discharge summaries
  - Within practice





## Analyse Interactions and Flow

### Hand Over

Better Information exchange required

- To reduce uncertainty
- To reduce workload
- To determine urgency of follow-up

### Workload shift

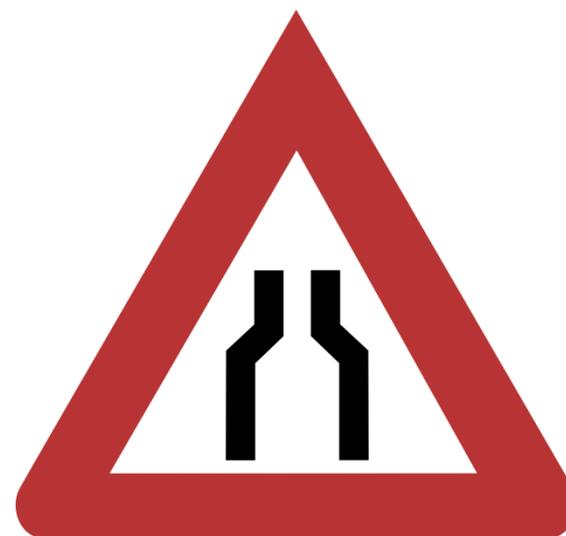
- Additional work required to manage the uncertainty created by variable discharge summaries
- 'Digging' for information to piece it together takes time



## Analyse Interactions and Flow: Bottleneck #1

### Diagnostic coding

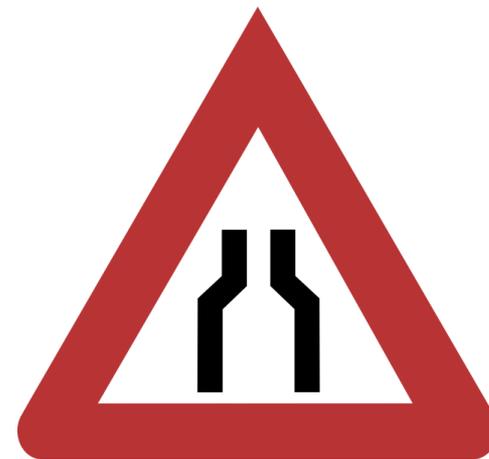
- Coding AKI an important step to enhance subsequent primary care management
- Practice protocol helps with coding and follow-up
- BUT
- ‘Beholden to what the junior doctor was writing’
  - e.g. needing to ‘pull through’ bloods from secondary care to confirm diagnosis and determine timing of follow-up



## Analyse Interactions and Flow: Bottleneck #2

### Medication reviews

- Delays in discharge information can lead to patients restarting medication at home – adds to the confusion
- Takes time to organise patient to come in for review
- Fits with role of Practice Pharmacist but not currently doing home visits

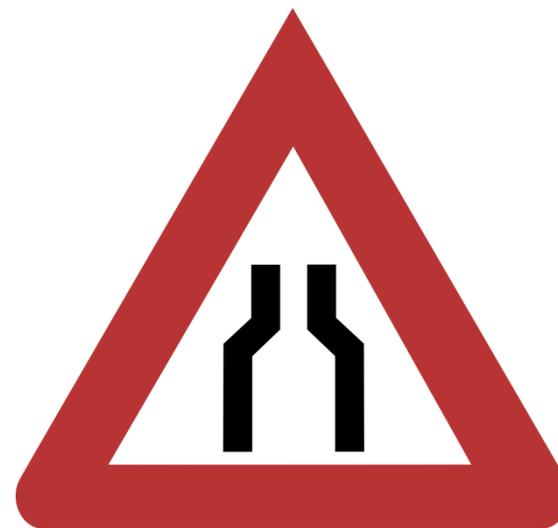




## Analyse Interactions and Flow: Bottleneck #3

### Communication with patients

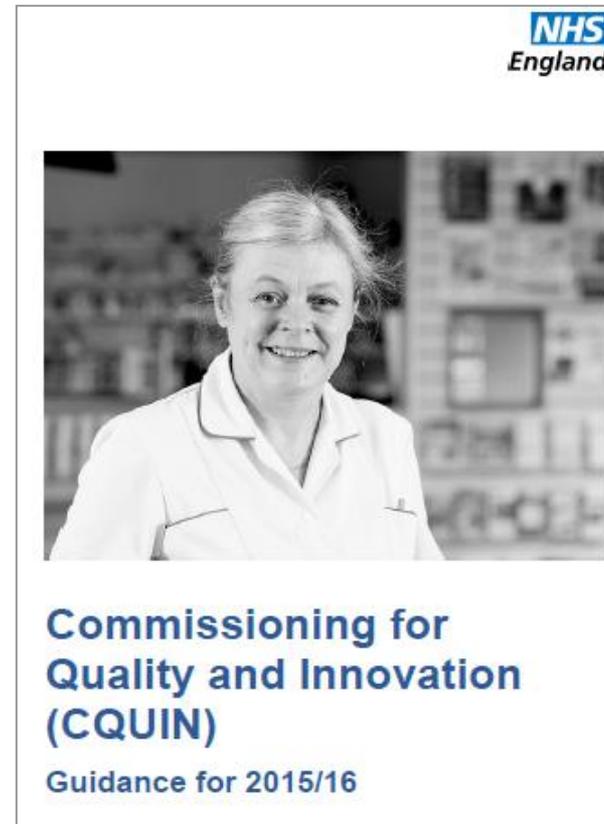
- Lack of clarity whether and what was discussed during admission
- Kidneys not penetrated 'public consciousness'
- AKI nurse specialists communicate at point of critical illness but not involved in planning discharge



# Discharge planning: Explore Performance Variability

## NHS England Guidance Work-as-Imagined

1. Stage of AKI
2. Evidence of medicines review
3. Type of blood tests required on discharge for monitoring
4. Frequency of blood tests required on discharge for monitoring





## Discharge planning: Explore Performance Variability

### **NHS England Guidance Work-as-Imagined**

1. Stage of AKI
2. Evidence of medicines review
3. Type of blood tests required on discharge for monitoring
4. Frequency of blood tests required on discharge for monitoring

### **Shared Learning Work-as-Done**

1. AKI stage and causes(s)
2. Baseline and Discharge SCr
3. Changes and Reasons for medication changes
4. Blood pressure at discharge
5. Evidence of communication with patients and carers



The screenshot shows the website for the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP). At the top left is the RCGP logo and the text "Royal College of General Practitioners". To the right is a search bar with the word "Search" and a magnifying glass icon. Below this is a dark blue navigation bar with four white links: "Training and practice", "Learning", "Policy and campaigns", and "Clinical". Underneath the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: "Home > Clinical > Resources > Clinical Toolkits > Acute Kidney Injury Toolkit". The main heading is "Acute Kidney Injury Toolkit" in a large, dark blue serif font. Below the heading is a large blue banner featuring a white starburst shape with two orange kidney icons in the center. To the right of the starburst, the text "THINK KIDNEYS" is written in a bold, orange, sans-serif font.



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