

The introduction of a novel smartphone app to tackle acute kidney injury in North West England
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Background

The introduction of the “AKI care app” through a collaboration of the Greater Manchester, Lancashire and South Cumbria Strategic Clinical Networks was designed to improve AKI care. It acts as an educational and reference tool for different stages of AKI, their complications and signposts towards referrals directly to on-call renal team, intensive care or through NORSE, our online referral platform. It has links to Think Kidneys, the NICE AKI Guidelines and the NICE Fluid Prescription Guidelines.

Discussion

The app was interrogated and analysed for users demographics and usage statistics. 34% of overall downloads were by junior doctors, 28% by Consultants and 9% by nursing staff. 85% of the known demographic that downloaded the app were doctors, 10% of the total were from outside of the North West region which demonstrates the reach and accessibility of the internet. The app was downloaded but not used on repeated occasions, which is similar to findings in other studies regarding medical app use. There is a limited role for the app because an integrated tool for physicians as e-alert has superseded it to alert electronic patient record users to AKI stage therefore the app has more use as an educational tool for symptoms and signposting. There are limitations within the app itself due to non compulsory elements for data input, therefore unknown if symptoms truly negative or not inputted. Also as the range was not set therefore manual exclusion criteria applied to input statistics as pH range 5.0 to 8.0 entered, either in error or as an educational inquiry.

Conclusion

This simple, user friendly app finds value as an educational and reference tool however is limited by and inability to integrate with the IT systems in hospital.