

Case study: nurse study days – ‘the importance of providing targeted AKI education away from busy clinical areas’.

Purpose of this guide

Education was a key element of the Tackling AKI trial, supporting the introduction of AKI alerts and a care bundle. Whilst the Tackling AKI project teams used many different formats of education, involvement of the MDT in education was extremely important. As such, this document presents a case study of how an extremely successful nurse study day was designed, implemented and sustained at one of the Tackling AKI sites (Ashford and St Peter’s Hospital, ASPH).

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Background

As one of the largest staff groups within hospitals it was recognised early in the project that the nursing staff would play a key role in responding to the AKI alert and ensuring the care bundle was commenced. When the project was launched in December 2015, the project team concentrated on providing training and education to nurses and junior doctors within the ward environment. This was difficult to achieve given the pressures on staff time and upon reflection the project team did not feel this was a beneficial use of scarce resources. The project team were in agreement that a dedicated study day for nurses was essential. This would give them the opportunity to have the key issues regarding AKI explained in a calm learning environment, away from the distractions of a busy ward.

Designing the study day

The Clinical Nurse Lead for the AKI project at APSH was a Critical Care Outreach Sister with a keen interest in AKI. To determine the content of the study day a learning needs analysis was conducted across the trust. There was an overwhelming indication that nurses wanted

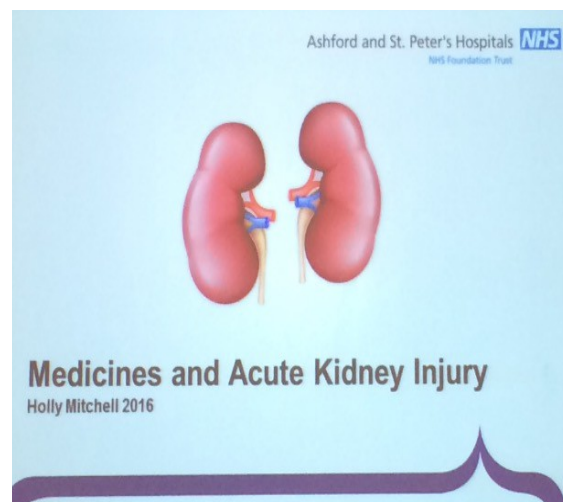
more training and education around drugs that could contribute to AKI and a refresh on the anatomy and physiology of the kidney. This feedback gave the project team clear guidance as to where the knowledge gaps were, enabling expert educators and clinicians be invited to deliver fundamental aspects of the study day.

What happened?

A flier advertising the study day was posted on all wards and in all acute areas across the Trust. There was an overwhelming response from the staff with over 70 applicants for the first study day. 50 nurses were invited and those who were unsuccessful were automatically invited to the next study day. Attenders to the first ever AKI study day included the Chief Nurse and Deputy Chief Nurse and the study day was sponsored by the AKI project.

The first AKI study day

The staff who attended were extremely enthusiastic and keen to learn. The combination of formal lectures and workshops gave them the opportunity to discuss what they had learnt and to ask questions in a safe, non-threatening environment.



On the second AKI study day, there was a presentation from a patient who had sustained an AKI who is also a Consultant Anaesthetist. This was a very powerful presentation and brought home to staff that anyone can sustain an AKI, not just the elderly; it's a good lesson that the use of a patient story is a strong way to ground the theoretical teaching and 'make it real'.

What happened next?

Feedback from the day was fantastic. Many of the nurses commented that they were very grateful that “***such senior clinical staff had taken time out of their day to teach them***”. Nurses felt empowered and had the confidence to start a care bundle for a patient with an AKI alert. This was demonstrated in an increase in the care bundle completion post study day with some nurses challenging the medical staff and insisting all elements of the care

bundle were completed. The word cloud below was created from the feedback from that first study day.



Where to now?

The Critical Care Outreach Team have taken over the mantle of continuing with the AKI study days. To date there have been four study days with more planned. They are no longer just AKI study days as the overlap with Sepsis could not be ignored. Enthusiasm for the day continues and they are consistently oversubscribed. To date over 150 nursing staff have completed the study day.

Top tips

- ! Don't underestimate the time commitment required from the faculty and organisers of the study day. It is very time consuming and having some administrative resource is vital.
- ! Plan your study day around the findings from your learning needs analysis. Don't assume you know where all the training gaps are.
- ! You might not be able to address all the training gaps on one study day.
- ! Taking staff away from busy wards is key to keeping their attention and focus.
- ! A patient story is really powerful; find someone who is willing to tell their story.
- ! It's nice to be able to offer the nurses a free lunch so if possible get the study day sponsored.

Resources to accompany this guide

1. Study day flier
2. Study day programme