

Importance of the Multi-Disciplinary Team in AKI

Purpose of this guide

From the start of the Tackling AKI project, we aimed to engage with the whole multidisciplinary team to encourage their involvement in AKI care. The Tackling AKI project teams worked with frontline staff to identify enablers to support this; defining the roles that different staff groups play in the process of providing AKI care was the foundation. In this document, we summarise some of our learning around this.

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Background - initial actions

Each of the Tackling AKI hospitals had plans to engage with the MDT from the outset. In general, this focussed on easily accessible ways to increase awareness of the key messages around AKI, as follows:

- ! Three of the teams (Leeds, Bradford & Frimley) developed nursing cards to help improve team communication around recognising AKI and to encourage nursing staff to start relevant actions in the care bundles.
- ! Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust developed doctor's cards to raise awareness of the 'STOP' AKI care bundle and as a reminder to provided relevant information to GPs and patients after an episode of AKI.
- ! Ashford and St Peter's developed a care bundle with clearly defined responsibilities for different MDT roles. This included different coloured sections to easily signpost role-specific actions.
- ! Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust developed posters detailing the roles of team members involved in AKI care.

Case studies

Some specific examples of MDT involvement in the Tackling AKI project.

Empowering Nurses to Tackle AKI

Nurse Senior Sister Julie Brooks (Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Medical Admissions Unit) explains the importance of the nurse's role in tackling AKI <https://youtu.be/YheJHeAcxwc>



Getting the whole team Tackling AKI

A Medicine for the Elderly ward at Leeds Teaching Hospitals integrated a discussion of AKI alerts into their daily nurse-led safety huddles. AKI champion, Sister Sarah Morris (Junior Sister, J17) explains her role as an AKI champion and discusses how all staff on the ward have been involved in reducing AKI.

<https://youtu.be/ne8JGsVmTjQ>

How Junior Doctors are Tackling AKI

Leeds Doctors cards were used as a teaching aid for junior doctors; this has led to a 'teaching academy' being developed to provide additional education to junior doctors and provide a network of support of peer-to-peer teaching around AKI.



Importance of the Pharmacy team in Tackling AKI



Although at first glance AKI care bundles may appear to show medicine management as just one action, in fact there are a number of different levels at which medication management is important. This includes: cessation of medicines contributing to AKI, withholding medicines that may increase AKI risk, altering doses of medicines to reflect changing degrees of renal function and restarting important medicines appropriately after AKI resolution. As such, pharmacy involvement in AKI improvement teams is extremely valuable. This is described in more detail in the accompanying document ('Pharmacy role in AKI Care Explained')

Ownership of care bundle tasks

In Ashford and St Peter's, frontline staff reported that the tasks on the original care bundle were often not completed. Feedback from the medical teams highlighted the need to clarify roles and responsibilities so there was ownership for commencing and completing the care bundle across different staff groups. This led to a revision of the care bundle with clearly defined responsibilities for each staff group, which helped improve care bundle use:

"it's much easier to see what it is that I have to do for my patients that have an AKI; the old care bundle was confusing as I didn't know what my responsibilities were" **Ward Nurse**

"Using the mnemonic 'FLUIDS' makes it much easier to remember the elements of the care bundle when there is so much that the junior doctors have to do" **Consultant**

Using Critical Care Outreach teams to Tackle AKI

Critical care outreach teams engage with junior doctors and nursing staff across the hospital, often at the point where teams come together in the management of the deteriorating patient. Outreach teams can therefore have an important role, both directly in supporting AKI management, but also in raising awareness of the key concepts and in education. Charge nurse David Farnsworth



explains how Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust have used Critical care outreach to support teams to tackle AKI <https://youtu.be/Ffg21lyq9XM>

Resources to accompany this guide

1. Nursing cards from Leeds, Bradford and Frimley
2. Leeds doctor's cards
3. Posters with specific role responsibilities – Frimley, Bradford

4. 'Pharmacy role in AKI Explained' document
5. See care bundle resource section for the Ashford and St Peters Hospital Care bundle with specific elements highlights for different MDT members