

The NHS campaign to improve the care of people at risk of, or with, acute kidney injury

About us

Think Kidneys comprises the Think Kidney Programme Board, six Workstreams and a number of working groups. It's a collaboration of clinical experts including the National Clinical Director for Renal Disease, NHS England and the UK Renal Registry.

Members of the Programme Board are from the above organisations as well as patient representatives, AHSN, a CCG, Public Health England and NHS IQ.

Purpose and vision

To save lives and improve care and reduce harm and to measure, educate and manage AKI better, thereby increasing safety and improving efficiency.

The challenge

To reduce the risk and burden of AKI. The programme will lead work on the development of sustainable clinical tools, information, education and levers, and will prioritise patient empowerment.

Comms check list

Clear purpose

Right audience

Clear language

Appropriate channels

We're talking to

- NHS clinicians - primary and secondary care
- Commissioners and NHS managers
- Paediatric nephrologists
- Social care - care home providers and staff
- Patients, carers and the public
- Patient safety staff
- Renal charities
- AHSNs, SCNs etc.
- Regulatory partners - NICE, CQC, Monitor etc.
- Education providers
- Media

Messages

- Resources on thinkkidneys.nhs.uk for health and care professionals
- AKI is a global healthcare issue - a serious patient safety challenge
- 1 in 5 emergency admissions to hospital will have AKI
- AKI - 100 times more deadly than MRSA infection
- Up to 30% of AKI cases may be preventable
- AKI cost to the NHS estimated to be between £434m - 620m pa
- Incidence of AKI is increasing

Impact

The impact of the programme is to deliver better management of AKI, improved measurement of its impact and incidence, and more effective and accessible education for those involved in the provision of health and social care.

Developing the website as a one stop shop for resources and sharing – information, education, sharing & discussion – for everything AKI.

Co-creation, engagement and involvement, and the development of a 'community' are features of our communications activities.

Think Kidneys recent outputs

New publication – Recommended Minimum Requirements of a Care Bundle for Patients with AKI in Hospital

New publication - Nutritional Considerations in the Treatment of Adult Patients with AKI in Hospital

New Patient leaflet on AKI produced in conjunction with the RCGP and BKPA - available in easy to print format – under 'all professionals'

Coming in 2016

Risk

- 1° and 2° care risk calculators and matrices
- Patient alert card to facilitate communication between the person and health & care professionals

Education

- Planning for national awareness campaign
- App development in progress.
- New patient information leaflet online

Care Home Group

Developing training resources - pilot in the New Year in preparation for refinement and spread to all care homes (residential and nursing)

Intervention Developing guidance on the response to receipt of AKI warning test stage results in primary care for publication 2016.

Measurement

Working with labs and the UKRR on data transfer of results from the algorithm. Validating and analysis in progress along with reporting systems.

Paediatric Nephrologist Group working on medicines optimisation guidance for paed, a paediatric secondary care risk matrix and journal articles.

Mental Health Group working on guidance for mental health patients with AKI