Responding to Acute Kidney Injury
Warning Stage Test Results in Primary Care

From April 2016 primary care will start receiving Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) warning stage test results when a significant change in creatinine concentration is measured. This is as a result of a new detection algorithm, which was recommended for implementation in path labs’ information management systems across the country, through an NHS England Patient Safety Alert, in June 2014.

GPs and practice nurses will want to know how to respond to the alerts, which identify potential cases of acute kidney injury in real time, producing a test result (AKI stage 1, 2 or 3) alongside the serum creatinine result. The result, called ‘AKI Warning Stage’ will be delivered directly to the GP clinical IT systems of the requesting GP or practice nurse.

Help is at hand in managing these results, which are likely to be small in number (1 alert per whole time GP per 1-2 months). Think Kidneys has produced a number of resources to help clinicians decide the appropriate response to the test result, and to help establish a process for timely communication of the test results to both in and out-of-hours primary care services.

The resources have been designed to help primary care manage AKI and are all online at https://www.thinkkidneys.nhs.uk/aki/resources/primary-care/

**Short film on AKI and Primary Care**

**Response Times to AKI Warning Stage Test Results for Adults in Primary Care**
This at-a-glance resource explains what actions to take when, when to treat or when to refer.

**Recognising and Responding to AKI in Primary Care** – Understanding cause, possible medication factors, fluid volume status and options for review.

**Guidelines for Medicines Optimisation in Patients with AKI** - Medicines management for patients with, or at risk of AKI, e.g. which meds should or shouldn’t be suspended, which may be used with caution and alternative therapeutic options.

**Quick Guide to Potentially Problematic Drugs and Actions to Take in Primary Care**

**When or if to re-start drugs after an episode of AKI**

**Useful Patient Leaflets**

**Best Practice Guidance - Responding to AKI Warning Stage Test Results in Primary Care** which provides more detail on factors to consider when responding to results for adults, including, for example, the stages of AKI, history of acute illness, co-morbidities and risk factors.

**Your patients, everyone else and AKI**

We know from our research people generally don’t know much about their kidneys – what they do and how to keep them healthy. Think Kidneys will be running a public campaign in the summer to help raise awareness for everyone – those at risk of AKI and everyone else who needs to know more.

If you’d like to be involved in the campaign in your practice, drop us an email at thinkkidneys@renalregistry.nhs.uk and write ‘campaign’ in the message box, and we’ll send you all the information and materials.