Think Kidneys Rising to the Challenge and Tackling Acute Kidney Injury



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

Karen Thomas & Annie Taylor on behalf of the NHS Think Kidneys programme

The problem

Acute kidney injury is recognised globally as a growing healthcare safety challenge.



The strategy for change

- AKI is recognised by NHS England as an important safety issue in the NHS, and the Think Kidneys programme was established in 2014 to better understand the scale of the challenge of AKI and how to address it
- The aim to raise awareness of AKI across health and social care so that it could be identified more easily, allowing health and social care

Up to 30% could be prevented with the right care and treatment

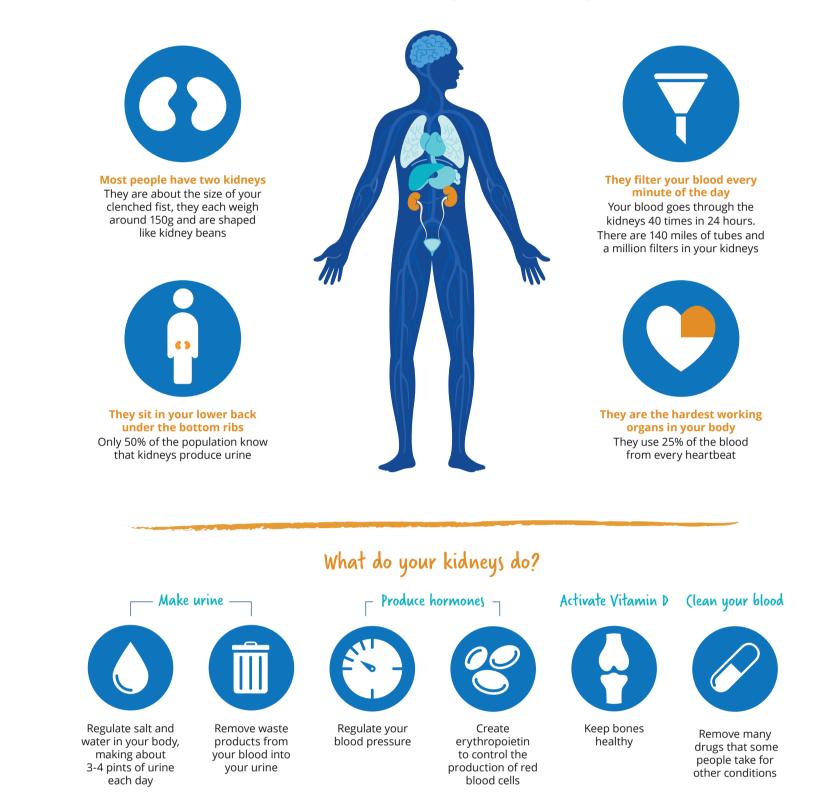
It is estimated that one in five people admitted to hospital Just one in two each year as an people know their kidneys make urine emergency has acute kidney injury

About 65% of acute kidney injury starts in the community

professionals the chance to make the best possible response and thereby improve safety and outcomes for patients

A nationally agreed information technology algorithm was designed and pathology laboratories were mandated to implement it through a Patient Safety Alert.

> (Almost) everything you need to know about your kidneys



Delivering the change

The team - A virtual team of people came together to develop the programme. Experts included consultant nephrologists, biochemists, GPs, commissioners, pharmacists, nurses, dieticians, paediatricians and very importantly, renal patients.

We established 6 workstreams – education, implementation, detection, risk, intervention and measurement which all worked to a project plan to deliver their elements of the programme on time.

The tactics – We developed an improved care pathway in every health care sector – primary, community and secondary was important and so we have, or are in the process of creating guidelines for everyone, regardless of where in the NHS you work.

We decided we didn't want to tell people or organisations what they had to do, but to provide them with the information, resources and support to help them develop an AKI pathway that would work for them and improve their rates of AKI and detection.

Measuring for improvement and change

- the Measurement team has developed a database of the data generated by the pathology lab algorithm. This provides accurate information about AKI and links them to other data sources to provide demographic information. Newly created reporting mechanisms detect any changes in the incidence of acute kidney injury. Data is provided to the UK Renal Registry and is reported on the Think Kidneys website.

Online resources were recognised to be the most accessible for the most people. Our publications are rigorously checked and validated by experts which gives them credibility with our audience of health and social care staff.

All of our outputs are published to the website for open access at www.thinkkidneys.nhs.uk

From the outset we wanted to showcase change and innovation in delivering new services for AKI. Case studies are shared on the website which detail how services have changed and improved for the benefit of patients.

Lessons learned and our messages for others wanting to tackle AKI



Don't underestimate the value of full patient/carer participation in every area of your work

We are now starting to see results in detection rates which will ultimately have an impact on the severity of AKI experienced by patients. This will then provide a safer environment and will, in time reduce the incidence rates of AKI.

The public and their kidneys

Initial research at the start of the programme told us that the general public in England knows very little about their kidneys. In recent years public health campaigns have focussed on heart attacks, stroke and lung cancer. To address this we are planning a national public campaign in July of this year – through which we will raise awareness of the importance of kidneys, how to keep them healthy and what happens when they go wrong.





- Involve people who represent every element of the pathway in your work
- Make sure you understand your audience well who you are trying to reach and when – we have found the effort to reach over 1,000,000 health and care staff quite a proposition!
- Realise the importance of effective communication not only what you want to say, but the channels to use to reach people
- Make use of technology for your virtual team, publishing resources and sharing information.

of CKD or AKI are tested regularly to spot problems as soon as possible.

Kidney disease is serious. It's harmful and changes lives. Protect your kidneys as if your life depended on it: because it does! Find out how to keep your kidneys healthy and safe www.thinkkidneys.nhs.uk You can become a donor and help save a life by signing up at: www.organdonation.nhs.uk

Your kidneys are amazing. They work so hard for you. Look after them and Think Kidneys





ink Kidneys is a national programme led by England in partnership with UK Renal Registr

www.thinkkidneys.nhs.uk

