

Kidney Quality Improvement Partnership (KQuIP)

“Working to develop, support and share improvements in kidney services to improve the lives of people living with kidney disease”

What is KQuIP?

KQuIP is developing as a national network committed to developing, supporting and sharing quality improvement (QI) in kidney services to improve quality of life and clinical outcomes for patients living with kidney disease. It is the QI infrastructure of the UK renal community, supported by the Renal Association, British Renal Society, and Kidney Care UK.

What does KQuIP do?

KQuIP supports healthcare professionals, kidney units, renal networks and commissioners across the UK to achieve the highest quality of care for patients.

KQuIP builds on rather than replaces existing QI structures.

It does this by:

- Helping kidney services to embed QI into daily practice
- Developing understanding and reducing unwarranted variation in care
- Spreading and sharing good practice

Aims

- KQuIP focusses on embedding QI into everyday multidisciplinary paediatric and adult practice within all renal services including kidney transplantation
- KQuIP provides expert clinical strategic advice regarding QI within renal services to NHS England and the other UK Countries
- KQuIP facilitates education, project management and capture of outcome data for QI projects in collaboration with renal clinical networks and local renal units
- KQuIP will provide a supportive framework giving freedom for clinicians to identify, foster, and encourage local innovation (bottom up ideas and priorities) and to address education of clinical staff to improve the quality of practice; with an expectation that this learning be passed on and shared

The [Kidney Health Delivering Excellence document](#) ambitions are at the centre of this initiative and will ensure that KQuIP activities remain patient focused and meaningful to patient groups.

KQuIP National Projects

Following input from the renal community KQuIP is focussing on three priority areas for national QI. The three areas currently show substantial variance. The skills developed to help reduce this variation will be easy to implement, enabling teams to address the needs and make changes that are specific to their work.

- **Transplant First**
Improving access to kidney transplantation. Pre-emptive transplant listing, living donation and kidney transplantation rates vary across the UK
- **Dialysis at Yours: Life fulfilled (DAYLife)**
DAYLife is the name for the KQuIP improvement project which aims to increase the number of people receiving renal replacement therapy at home
- **MAGIC**
MAGIC – Managing Access by Generating Improvements in Cannulation. Aiming to reduce variation, improve incidence and prevalence rates, improve patient experience, and reduce complications of cannulation of arteriovenous fistulae and grafts

KQuIP regional framework

KQuIP has identified that an effective regional network structure is critical for the delivery of tangible improvements for patients and KQuIP is supporting the development of regional delivery networks.

A framework of support, designed by experts in change management, is available to regions taking part in the KQuIP programme. The framework recognises that different regions have different needs and approaches requiring different levels of support. The framework is flexible and can be tailored to the needs of each region taking part.

KQuIP's ambition is for sustainable QI to become embedded in kidney care. Multidisciplinary QI leaders from within the participating regions are expected to take ownership of the programme that is set out below, to adapt it and play a leading role in its delivery, with the support of KQuIP.

- **Senior leaders** will be supported to: Lead change, understand how change can be spread and sustained, and support a functioning QI network across the region
- **Change agents** (QI leads) will be supported to: Set up a QI project, baseline a service, create a new vision, engage, communicate and manage people through change, implement a project and become part of a new 'QI faculty'
- **A QI facilitator** will support the region throughout the process and offer monthly support visits to participating units during the implementation phase

The regional KQuIP road-map:

Month 1: KQuIP Regional Day

Multi-professional teams, patients and other stakeholders come together as a region to:

- Review their regional UK Renal Registry data
- Discuss and share best practice in quality improvement
- Hear about the three national quality improvement projects that KQuIP is supporting
- Decide on one priority area for quality improvement in their region
- Build relationships across renal centres and strengthen the regional network

Quality improvement leads

Following the regional day, regions recruit a regional KQuIP lead and participating renal units recruit two QI leads from their team – one medical and one multi-professional.

QI leaders:

- Lead the QI programme locally
- Engage and work with their wider teams and patients
- Meet regularly as a QI network (over the phone and face to face)
- Receive training and support from KQuIP

Renal leadership training opportunity:

- Clinical directors, matrons and QI leads will be offered a heavily subsidised two day leadership course delivered by [Shortsmoor](#) within their region (follow the link to find out more)

Leadership into action:

QI leads come together following leadership training to:

- Discuss how they can apply the leadership training to their chosen QI project and how an understanding of leadership will support their roles as QI leads
- Carry out and discuss their organisation's 'Are you ready for change?' analysis and needs assessment
- Start planning for the Regional Project Launch event

Month 3/4: Regional Project Launch event:

- Stakeholders from across the region come together to launch their regional QI project. This includes patients, business managers, commissioners and multi-professional teams
- Renal units share where they are, what they want to improve and what they hope to achieve through the project
- Senior management pledge commitment to the project’s shared vision

Units across the region begin implementing their QI project and collaborating with each other, sharing successes, challenges, and measuring the results of their change initiatives.

KQuIP offers monthly visits to participating units to support with engaging wider teams, linking units, communicating their work and to offer QI expertise.

Throughout the year, QI leaders across the region are invited to attend three bespoke training days:

QI leads - training day 1: **Introduction to QI**

- **Setting up a project:**
 - What are we trying to achieve? (setting objectives)
 - What is the project – and what is it not? (setting the scope)
 - Who are the stakeholders?
 - Communicating your work and ideas
 - Timeframes of the project
 - What resource is needed at your unit to enable QI?
- **Baselining your service:**
 - Root cause analysis
 - Process mapping
 - Measurement

QI leads - training day 2: **Sharing and learning**

- **Morning session:**
 - Feedback from process mapping, root cause analysis and baseline measurement
 - Learning and comparison
- **Afternoon session – so what?**
 - Vision of a perfect service – with no barriers

- Roadmap to a vision
- Prioritising
- Plan-Do-Study-Act cycle
- What’s next?
 - Planning change over next period
 - Regional changes
 - Local changes
 - Feedback session to all Clinical Directors

QI leads - training day 3: **Maintaining momentum**

- Morning session:
 - Feedback from improvements and measurement
 - Learning and comparison
- Afternoon session:
 - People dimensions of change
 - Planning the next round of changes
 - Spread and embed

12 months after launch: **Celebration event**

After 12 months, the region comes together to share, spread and sustain changes, and to think about how the network will utilise and sustain their QI skills in the future and celebrate their QI work.

Contact details:

If you would like to find out more about the KQuIP programme, please get in touch at:
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