



*The***AHSN***Network*

Think Kidneys is a national programme led by NHS England in partnership with UK Renal Registry

Partnership for Improvement

Acute kidney injury (AKI) remains an important health care issue resulting in harm to individuals and the increased use of health care resources. Over the last two years, there has been considerable focus within the NHS in England to improve outcomes.

Think Kidneys is the national improvement programme for Acute Kidney Injury. A partnership between NHS England Patient Safety and the UK Renal Registry, led by the National Clinical Director for Renal Services, Think Kidneys has developed support for better care at both patient and commissioning level. Key milestones have been to introduce a standardised definition of AKI based on biochemical measurement, and national commissioning levers such as the AKI National CQUIN payment scheme for 2014/15. The standardised measurement has introduced more reliable diagnosis for the treatment of individuals and also provided the information to establish a master patient index of AKI cases across England. It has produced clinical policy guidance about risk, detection, intervention and education for primary, secondary and social care.

The Patient Safety Collaborative programme, initiated by NHS England in response to the Berwick Report 2013, is led by the Academic Health Science Networks (AHSNs) with the core aim of collaborating to enable a culture of continuous learning and capability for improvement across the whole system. It is intended to improve the way care is provided at a local level, helping front line teams to involve patients and their families to make healthcare safer. Where Patient Safety Collaboratives (PSCs) are focusing on a common theme, they are coming together to form clusters to exchange information, learn from each other and accelerate adoption and spread. Acute kidney injury is one such cluster, others are in place for Sepsis, Medicine Optimisation, Safe Discharge and Transfer, and Mental Health.

There is also very successful work across Strategic Clinical Networks, individual organisations and within the 'Sign up to Safety' campaign looking at improving care around the issue of AKI. These projects cover a wide variety of areas and have allowed the generation of solutions at a rapid rate across the country.

It is important that this energy, intellect and creativity is maintained and enhanced by the wide variety of ongoing work. The Think Kidneys team is committed to supporting the work of the Patient Safety Collaboratives, Sign up to Safety, work within Strategic Clinical Networks and across individual organisations. Think Kidneys will support projects through data analysis, availability of policy or with its broad range of expertise. The PSCs and SCNs

have the opportunity of testing, refining and modifying guidance, delivering at regional and local level and providing real case examples of improvement. Organisational projects are also welcome to work with the Cluster, their SCNs or Think Kidneys in a similar way.

We would like to see broader collaboration across the challenge of AKI. Think Kidneys is committed to supporting the measurement aspects with the PSCs/SCNs which support the improvement. These real case examples of 'how to do it' will then be disseminated via the shared facility of the Think Kidneys platform as one element to accelerate the process of change.

Think Kidneys and the AKI PSC Cluster are committed to forging an inclusive partnership that values and supports any work in this field. In particular, both programmes consider their role to be supportive and complementary to any and all work related to AKI.

In the first instance a number of actions have been agreed to refine the future working;

- 1) The AHSN PSC Cluster will attend the Think Kidneys Programme Board meetings
- 2) The Think Kidneys website will provide a portal for case studies and discussion for the PSCs, SCNs and other projects
- 3) The AHSN PSC cluster will be joining the UK Renal Registry at their SCN meeting to discuss data handling within the context of kidney disease and improvement
- 4) The AHSN PSC cluster is mapping the scope of AKI related projects across England
- 5) A series of shared learning events will be hosted.

We look forward to working with and supporting any and all projects sharing the central objective to reduce harm related to acute kidney injury. We would welcome contact from any projects or communities, and for further information please contact

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