Reducing Hospital Acquired Acute Kidney Injury (AKI)

Scott Hawes, AKI Nurse Specialist, Wessex Kidney Centre, Portsmouth Hospitals Trust

Introduction:
In December 2015 the AKI Nurse Specialist at Portsmouth Hospital Trust (PHT) began work to improve awareness and management of AKI throughout the hospital. The main emphasis being raising the profile and visibility of AKI and education for clinical staff on how to responded appropriately to patients with AKI. The overall aim was to try and reduce the numbers of hospital acquired AKI (AKI acquired >48 from admission).

Measuring Clinical Impact:
The 4 month time period from December 2016 to March 2017 compared to the same time period for the previous year showed a drop in the numbers of hospital acquired stage 3 AKI by 41.5%, and a reduction in mortality by 5%.

Raising Awareness of AKI:
A trust wide education programme on AKI management based on the care pathway was rolled out trust wide. AKI sessions were included on all new FY doctors induction, new staff nurses preceptorship course and an AKI session was added to the existing patient safety study day.

Other new AKI initiatives to raise awareness included:
- AKI intranet page—with resources linked to the “think kidneys” website.
- AKI quick reference cards with an AKI alert essential interventions checklist.
- AKI alert stickers for drug charts of patients triggering an AKI.
- AKI patient information leaflets.
- AKI information banners throughout the hospital.
- AKI alerts incorporated into the “VitalPAC” observation monitoring system.

Measuring Clinical Impact:
The 4 month time period from December 2016 to March 2017 compared to the same time period for the previous year showed a drop in the numbers of hospital acquired stage 3 AKI by 41.5%, and a reduction in mortality by 5%.

Conclusion:
Electronic AKI alerts using the new AKI staging algorithm have been utilised in Acute Hospitals since March 2015. However an AKI alert on its own does not instruct healthcare professionals on how act appropriately in response. These result show AKI can be significantly reduced if clinical staff become aware of the importance of AKI alerts and are given the fundamental AKI management skills and knowledge.