Acute Kidney Injury – A NICE Checklist

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Introduction
Acute kidney injury (AKI) is associated with increased mortality (1) and length of stay (2). We have introduced a checklist to ensure management of AKI is compliant with NICE guidelines. The main aim of this project is to determine whether using a checklist improves AKI care in accordance with NICE and NCEPOD guidelines (3,4).

Methods
A checklist has been designed based on NICE guidelines and is introduced in the medical admissions unit in Worcestershire Royal Hospital. The checklist is completed by the medical team when AKI is diagnosed. Data is collected prospectively from January to April 2017.

NICE standards:
1. All patients presenting with acute illness must be investigated for AKI with AKI promptly identified
2. Urinalysis must be performed as soon as AKI is detected
3. AKI must be monitored following detection
4. Cause of AKI must be recorded in patient’s notes

Results
1. Baseline characteristics (N = 62 patients)

Conclusion
The introduction of an AKI checklist led to an improvement in the care of community acquired AKI. The majority of NICE standards were met with the use of the checklist. The limitations of this audit were the absence of measuring outcomes such as mortality and renal recovery. This checklist is recommended for use in other wards in Worcestershire Royal Hospital to audit care of hospital acquired AKI.

References: