

TO ASSESS THE COMPLIANCE AT ST HELENS & KNOWSLEY NHS TRUST WITH NICE GUIDANCE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF INTRAVENOUS FLUID THERAPY.

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INTRODUCTION

AKI Acute Kidney Injury is both a prevalent and serious problem amongst hospitalised patients according to the National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death (NCEPOD). Prevalence amongst hospitalised patients in the US is 4.9%, however there are no equivalent data for UK hospital admissions.

Dehydration is a well-known risk factor for the development of AKI. NCEPOD highlighted that, poor assessment of hydration needs and inappropriate intravenous fluid therapy management can lead to dehydration in hospitalised patients.

Current NICE guidance for the management of intravenous fluid IV therapy in adults, has been interpreted locally to develop the St Helens and Knowsley Trust (STHK), guidance on intravenous fluid therapy.

AIM

To assess the compliance of the STHK trust, on the management of intravenous fluid therapy, with the NICE guidance.

OBJECTIVES

To determine the number of patients who have, documented assessments of their fluid and electrolyte requirements as part of each ward review.

METHOD

The study was undertaken over a 2 day period, on four wards within the Trust, including the medical and surgical assessment wards and an additional medical and surgical ward. The patients who were prescribed IV fluids were included in the audit. The audit tool utilised was the NICE audit tool for a baseline assessment of intravenous fluid therapy in adults in hospital.

RESULTS

The data collected showed that none of the patients had their fluid and electrolyte needs assessed as part of every ward review. Additionally no patients had a fluid management plan documented. The audit also showed that 81% of patients were prescribed less than 25-30 mls/kg/day of water.

DISCUSSION

The audit results highlight poor compliance within the trust of the NICE guidance for intravenous fluid therapy in adults in hospital. The audit tool utilised relates specifically to the NICE guidance. There is also trust guidance for intravenous fluid therapy, in place, that has been derived from the NICE guidance.

The findings of the audit highlight a requirement for a more formal review of IV fluid therapy within the trust, and will be utilised to drive further work within the AKI team.