Fluid Balance Charts

NHS
The Princess Alexandra Hospital
NHS Trust

Project aim

To improve compliance with fluid balance chart documentation to support efforts to improve patient outcomes by reducing harm caused by dehydration, fluid overload, acute kidney injury, fluid/electrolyte imbalance and acid base imbalance

Timeline for delivery
From: Jan 2019   **To:** March 2020

Measures

- Accuracy with completion of input, output and balance
- Reduction in number of AKI alerts
- AKI Mortality data

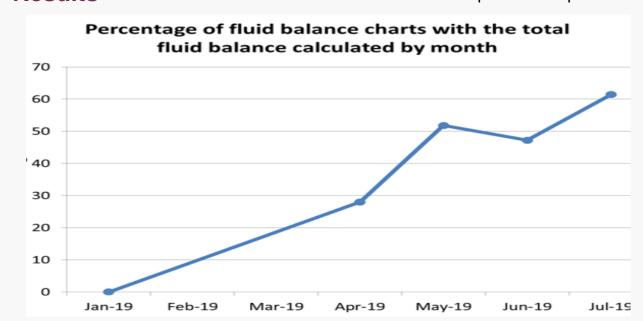## Tests for change

Completed
- Change start time of fluid balance charts from midnight to 14.00
- Introduction of two types of chart i.e. acute and basic
- Pilot on two wards, then a further two
- Intermittent checks introduced ie 1900, 0200, 0700 & 1400
- Roll out to all acute adult in patient areas
- Pilot on Charnley Ward showed an improvement with number of AKI alerts corresponding with compliance improvements with FBC

Next steps
- Named nurse to submit weekly audits
- Collation of monthly compliance with submission of audits
- Results to be escalated to HCG matrons and ADONS for resolution

You can have the best processes, systems, facilities and *fluid balance charts* in the world, but it's our people that make the difference

Project team

- Helena Robert – Project Lead, CCOT
- Debbie Thomas – CCOT
- Lucy Blake – CCOT
- Elisabete Borges – CCOT
- Christina Carr- CCOT

Results

Evidence of improved compliance

Percentage of fluid balance charts with the total fluid balance calculated by month

Learning and next steps

To continue to educate, train and supervise staff in the importance of accurate fluid balance management and how to identify patients who require fluid balance charts. To engage with wider stakeholders this includes the AKI Board, fluid balance champions, practice development and matrons.

Although the compliance improvements are positive it is acknowledged that not all areas are submitting audits. Therefore, next step is to provide evidence of Trust wide submission and compliance. All wards have been asked to submit weekly compliance audits for the next three months before evidence that improvement has been sustained.

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#FabChange19

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