

P445

## P445 -Development of a nursing teaching program for general medical and surgical topics on a renal ward

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### Introduction

In many hospitals within the UK, renal units and wards have become separated from their general medical counterparts. Indeed, a number of renal units are in control of their own admissions to their ward based on clinical needs. That being said, the majority of these admissions will be general medical and surgical problems, with renal disease being a co-morbidity. A recent study carried out at our unit showed that 63% of haemodialysis patients were admitted to the ward with non-renal issues, ranging from acute myocardial infarction to bowel obstruction. However, nursing staff on the ward seem to only receive a limited amount of education on these topics. Indeed, anecdotally and through datixes, there had been incidences suggesting issues surrounding the management of acute medical and surgical issues. And so, the aim of this project was to create a teaching program on acute medical and surgical issues geared towards the nursing staff.

### Methods

Initially, a survey was conducted of the nurses exploring their confidence in managing acute medical and surgical problems and whether they would benefit from regular teaching sessions. In addition, the nursing staff were asked to create a list of topics which they would like covered. Table 1 demonstrates the final list of teaching sessions. The aim was to have a 30-45 minute sessions every 2 weeks. This would be on a 6 month rolling rota, so that if someone missed a specific topic, they would be able to attend the same topic again in 6 months time. Tutors were recruited based on experience and expertise, with a number of them being junior doctors rotating through a renal placement. Many of them had just completed an acute medical or surgical placement and were felt to be in a good position to deliver the talks. Each teaching was case-based and made to be relevant to the renal unit. The program had been discussed with the nurse in charge of the renal ward and the matron in charge of the unit, and an appropriate time scheduled to ensure maximum attendance.

### Results

The teaching sessions have been very popular and well evaluated. The junior doctors involved in delivering the teaching were praised for their knowledge and their enthusiasm. To date, all participants have either agreed or strongly agreed that the teaching sessions were presented well, the content were relevant to their work and that the sessions would have a positive impact on their day to day practice.

### Conclusion

Although the teaching program is in its infancy, it appears to be popular and well evaluated. It is important for renal units to acknowledge the amount of acute medical and surgical issues that they have present on their wards and ensure that all staff are trained appropriately to deal with this. Developing these types of teaching programs not only helps to deliver this, but can improve the relationships between the junior doctors and nurses on the ward.