To Pee or Not to Pee:
Medication Safety for Renal Inpatients with GFR <30

Lesley Thellend, RN

Interior Health
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT & PATIENT SAFETY

Aim Statement

To decrease adverse medication events for renal inpatients with a GFR <30 ml/min.

Problem / Issue

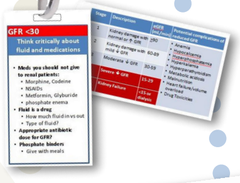
The problem was identified by renal nurses whose patients were not receiving certain medications, receiving the wrong dosages, receiving too much fluid, or receiving medications at the wrong time. Medical unit staff did not always know what the medications were for or why they might be important.

Context

The To Pee or Not to Pee project is a quality improvement project at Royal Inland Hospital, a 250 bed tertiary hospital in Interior BC. The project involved units that care for renal patients.

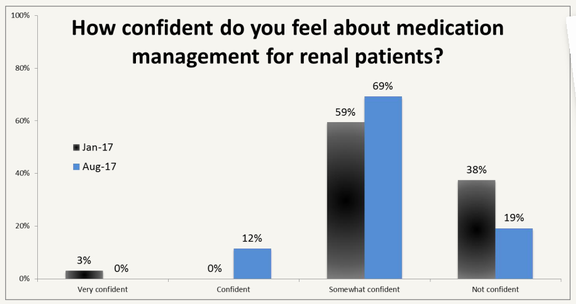
Interventions

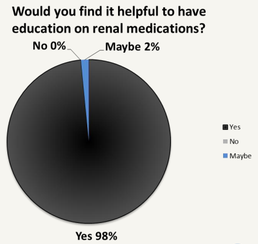
- Short, on-the-fly education sessions held on medical floors where it was convenient for unit staff, educators and charge nurses to attend.
- Lanyard cards were developed to remind staff to think critically about fluid and medications for their renal patients
- Large posters with more details about medication safety for renal patients
- Insert for Medication Administration Record (MAR) for renal patients

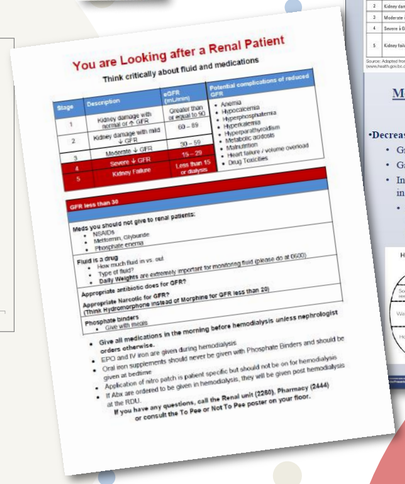


Measurement

- Staff online survey to gauge the level of confidence staff felt about medication management for renal patients and whether or not more education would be helpful.







Lessons Learned

- Short, stand-up education sessions work better than hour-long scheduled sessions
- Find a time of day that works for the staff
- Take-away reminders are helpful (lanyard card, poster)
- Educate nursing educators for sustainability