

The Department of Health has seen a number of major changes over the last few months including the establishment of a new Ministerial Team under the Secretary of State the Rt Hon Alan Johnson MP. Rt Hon Ann Keen MP is now the Parliamentary Under Secretary for Health Services and is the Minister responsible for renal services and kidney care.

The Department of Health Capability Review was published on 14 September 2007.

Sir Bruce Keogh will take up his post as the first Medical Director for the NHS in early November and his responsibilities will include clinical programmes.

The results of the comprehensive spending review, indicating a 4% uplift, were announced in mid-October. The operating framework for the NHS and the outcomes and quality framework are expected to be published in December.

The Renal Policy team, Heart and Stroke team and Diabetes team now form the vascular branch at the Department of Health to facilitate joined up policy and implementation across the broad vascular agenda. The Children's, Transplant and End of Life Teams work in adjacent areas. The Renal Policy Team comprises,

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The next stage review led by Lord Darzi has established workstreams in acute care, children, end of life care, mental health, planned health, maternity and newborn care, long term conditions and staying healthy. Each Strategic Health Authority outside NHS London is preparing a local vision and framework for action (interested parties should contact their SHA to influence relevant strategies). Healthcare for London was published in July 2007.

Early kidney disease

- Quality Management and Analysis System (QMAS) data for 2006/07 was published on 28 September 2007 and it shows an overall adult prevalence of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) of 3%. There is large variance between practices in each PCT and SHA.
- Clinical Directors have been advised to work with their Primary Care Trusts to improve detection, early management and referral.
- eGFR reporting has been reviewed by the Pathology team. Greater than 90% of United Kingdom National External Quality Assessment (UK NEQAS) are eGFR reporting.
- Following DH hosted meetings the BNF have modified their CKD - medicines management advice in the September 2007 update.

- The Pathology group have been asked to advise on proteinuria/albuminuria currencies, costs and practicalities.
- Submissions have been made by the vascular branch to the 2008/09 Quality and Outcomes Framework revision.
- Primary - secondary care informatics workshop was held on 15 October 2007 to identify the actions necessary in the next two years.

Healthcare commission national renal audit

The healthcare commission is considering bids to undertake national renal audits on the quality of:

- Management of early kidney disease.
- Timely creation of vascular access for haemodialysis.
- Transport arrangements for haemodialysis.

Action learning sets 2006/07

These learning sets commenced in August 2006 and are nearing completion. They comprise:

- Transitional care for young adults with kidney disease – Great Ormond Street and Birmingham Children's Hospital/University Hospital, Birmingham.
- Acute Kidney Injury, West London Renal Centre, Preston Royal Hospital and Lancashire Hospitals.

- The year before RRT, Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, York District General Hospital.
- A final sharing event was held on 10 October 2007.
- Publication of a final report is expected soon.

Health Survey England

- Proposal to assay historic blood samples submitted.
- Proposal for urine Albumin Creatinine Ratio and Protein Creatinine Ratio evaluation in future surveys submitted.

Programme Budgeting and PbR

- Renal expenditure to be separately itemised in Programme Budgeting from 2008.
- Renal PBR Group established to provide comment and advice on Payment by Results for RRT and renal services.

NICE guidelines and topics

- NICE Chronic Kidney Disease guidelines – expected Q2 2008.
- NICE – Department of Health vascular branch co-ordinating work on cardiovascular risk assessment.
- NICE topic selection board for Vascular topics (Chronic Heart Disease and stroke, Chronic Kidney Disease and Diabetes) is now operational.

- Diagnostic technology appraisal – proteinuria – scoping document submitted.

Knowledge management

- National Electronic Library for Health launched on World Kidney Day 2007.
- NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement collaborate website pilot now refocused on HCAI's is in progress.

Renal dataset

- Draft approved at ISB April 2007.
- Pilots in volunteer units imminent.
- Expected to be mandated for collection from April 2010.

Donor task force

- The Donor Task Force is due to report in Autumn 2007 and represents a real opportunity to make a substantial difference to donor rates nationally.
- The focus will be that organ donation is an issue for the whole NHS and indeed wider community not just the transplanting centres.
- Comparative data will be used to leverage improvements – possibly linked to national audits.
- Detailed recommendations about governance arrangements for a national transplant donor network are expected.

- The importance of increasing donation rates in the black and ethnic minority communities is expected to be emphasised.
- The task force have now been asked by Ministers to examine the issue of presumed consent and to advise on any legislative changes that should be considered.

Healthcare Associated Infections/Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus renal project

- High impact intervention – renal dialysis catheter care, published.
- Renal toolkit to assist implementation of saving lives published.
- Conference on Healthcare Associated Infections/Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus on World Kidney Day.
- Renal surveillance pilots of extended national mandatory enhanced surveillance system (MESS) reported successfully and renal pages in the MESS are now live.
- The first quarter renal MESS results are expected to be published on 31 October 2007.
- Targeted support to specific renal units – ongoing.
- Linkage of the HPA and RR datasets is being explored.

18 Week Pathways

- Two renal pathways – general nephrology/chronic kidney disease to cover the whole of CKD and a further 18 week pathway on live kidney donation have been agreed.
- A project manager has been appointed and an inclusive approach to pathway development will be pursued.
- A consensus event to “sign off” the pathways is expected in February 2008.

Away from Base Unit Dialysis

- Renal Advisory Group (RAG) working party established under the chairmanship of Mr Bob Dunn.

NHS Choices

- This website provides information on healthy lifestyles, an A-Z of medical conditions and details on services and performance to assist patient choice.
- NHS Choices takes feeds directly from NHS Direct. The CKD Forum have provided a detailed critique of the kidney sections of NHS Direct which are currently being updated.
- Information on a range of kidney conditions is expected to be available on NHS Choices from mid-November 2007.

Independent Sector Treatment Centres

- E16 scheme contracts awarded – Cheshire & Merseyside, N & E Yorks & N Lincs, Yorks & Humber.
- E16 scheme - commercial close on the 20 June 2007.
- Tranche 4 National Renal Scheme – procurement of area specific HD services in progress.

End of life care strategy

- The publication of the End of Life Care Strategy is likely to be linked to the next stage review.
- The National Liverpool Care Pathway for the dying patient renal project will be producing guidelines for LCP drug prescribing in advanced chronic kidney disease in the near future. www.mcpcil.org.uk/frontpage

Workforce Planning

- Plans for DH-BRS workshops on workforce design and planning are being considered.

NSF workshops / Recent workshops

- The renal policy team have / had workshops on:
- Bringing Together Specialised Commissioners for Renal Services – 24 Sept 2007
 - Action Learning Set – 10 October 2007

- Renal Informatics Workshop – 15 October 2007
- Preparation for RRT Workshop – scheduled for 5 December 2007 - now cancelled. It is expected that much of the work will be undertaken in the 18 week pathway project.
- End of Life Care Workshop – 14 April 2008

Recent /Pending Publications

- Transport Information for Renal Patients - September 2007
- RCP/PCGP leaflet Continuing Good CKD Management - October 2007
- Revised HBN for Renal Units (Volume 2 of 3) currently under final consultation

For further information
or details of the
End of Life Care Workshop please
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*Your comments and questions are
welcome*

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