



KQuIP: delivering excellence in the care of patients with kidney disease

The Kidney Quality Improvement Partnership (KQuIP) is a sustainable initiative set up by a range of renal bodies and associations. It has six key workstreams: supporting networks, communication and engagement, education, leadership, projects, and measurement and understanding. In this article, Louise Wells and Graham Lipkin discuss these six workstreams in more detail.

- quality improvement
- patient care
- registries
- leadership

Kidney care teams have a long and proud history of working together to plan, inform and deliver the best possible service, as well as support better outcomes for patients. These teams have also led the way in developing forums for measuring and reporting quality issues, and for celebrating and sharing best practice, notably through the annual UK Renal Registry (UKRR) report and the Renal Association and British Renal Society conferences.

The kidney care community now has a real opportunity to build on the passion and enthusiasm shown in previous and existing quality improvement (QI) work, to bring together ideas and innovation, and to support and share learning. This will ensure kidney services continue to be at the forefront of high-quality patient care.

What is KQuIP?

The Kidney Quality Improvement Partnership (KQuIP) was highlighted in

a previous edition of the *Journal of Renal Nursing* (Ormandy et al, 2015) and is being developed under the umbrella brand of Think Kidneys.

KQuIP is a unique and important new initiative, bringing together the UK kidney community with a commitment to supporting and enhancing QI, to deliver the ambitions agreed in the *Kidney Health: Delivering Excellence* (2013) document. It has been set up by individuals from NHS renal units, the UKRR, British Renal Society, Renal Association, British Association of Paediatric Nephrologists, the Health Foundation, NHS England and the renal charities—National Kidney Federation, British Kidney Patient Association and Kidney Research UK.

The key ambitions for KQuIP are to identify the need for and offer support and advice to QI projects; to support a QI learning structure through increasing and sharing good practice and innovation; to identify renal QI champions; to measure clinical outcomes; and to use data to identify and respond to unwarranted variation in patient care.

KQuIP aims to drive QI:

- Nationally at strategic level through advice to clinical reference groups
- Regionally by supporting existing clinical networks and by delivering an annual UK Renal Registry/KQuIP QI day
- Locally at renal unit level through UK Kidney Week activity, promoting the sharing and dissemination of good practice, supporting a renal unit peer-assist programme and implementing local QI projects.

Key workstreams

A KQuIP programme board and operational group is in place, with remits for strategy development and management; delivery of the KQuIP vision and ambitions; assessment of the impact of those ambitions; and ensuring the sustainability of the national partnership.

Six key workstreams have been identified to support the delivery of the ambitions:

- Supporting networks
- Communication and engagement
- Education
- Leadership
- Projects
- Measurement and understanding.

Supporting networks

KQuIP recognises the key role of establishing links between existing and new networks, in maintaining and building QI activity to drive the QI agenda. This workstream is crucial as a structured delivery mechanism for the various outputs of other workstreams, creating, promoting and using relevant networks to deliver tangible improvements for patients.

Communication and engagement

The communication team will promote and raise awareness of KQuIP and its work to everyone who has an interest in kidney care. It will share information and highlight KQuIP's value and success.

Education

The role of this workstream is to identify, develop, implement and evaluate the educational resources needed to ensure that

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the kidney care workforce has the skills and knowledge needed for everyone to become effective and confident in QI.

Leadership

The development and encouragement of leadership at all levels is vital to ensure that the QI agenda is driven and that QI becomes embedded in everyday work.

This workstream will identify and develop present and future QI leaders, including patients, carers and professionals from all renal disciplines. It will ensure that those leaders have the skills, aptitude and attitude to maintain momentum and the enthusiasm to transform services.

Projects

Many of KQuIP's activities will come together in the projects workstream. The ideas for improvement projects will come from the renal community, with KQuIP's faculty providing strategic support and guidance to those who are designing and delivering work 'on the ground'.

The projects workstream will develop a register of QI projects and encourage the sharing of expertise in the design, set up and implementation of projects at a local, regional and national level.

Measurement and understanding

This group will undertake the essential role of working with all other workstreams to measure and identify whether improvements which lead to real change and patient benefit have been delivered and sustained.

What next?

UK Kidney Week in June 2016 will see the launch of KQuIP. Leading up to the launch, a KQuIP design day was held in May 2016, where everyone involved in the evolution of the partnership thus far, together with wider representation from all areas of the renal community, came together for an opportunity to engage with, learn about and contribute to the development of KQuIP and each of the workstreams.

In particular, the design day was organised to provide:

- An agreed and clear understanding of KQuIP and its vision
- Clarity about what is required to deliver KQuIP
- Confidence to promote KQuIP to encourage the involvement of kidney teams
- A desire to continue to be involved and shape and inform KQuIP's future

- A chance to share thoughts on what would be helpful in supporting local ambitions and identifying good practice, as well as learning.

An ongoing journey

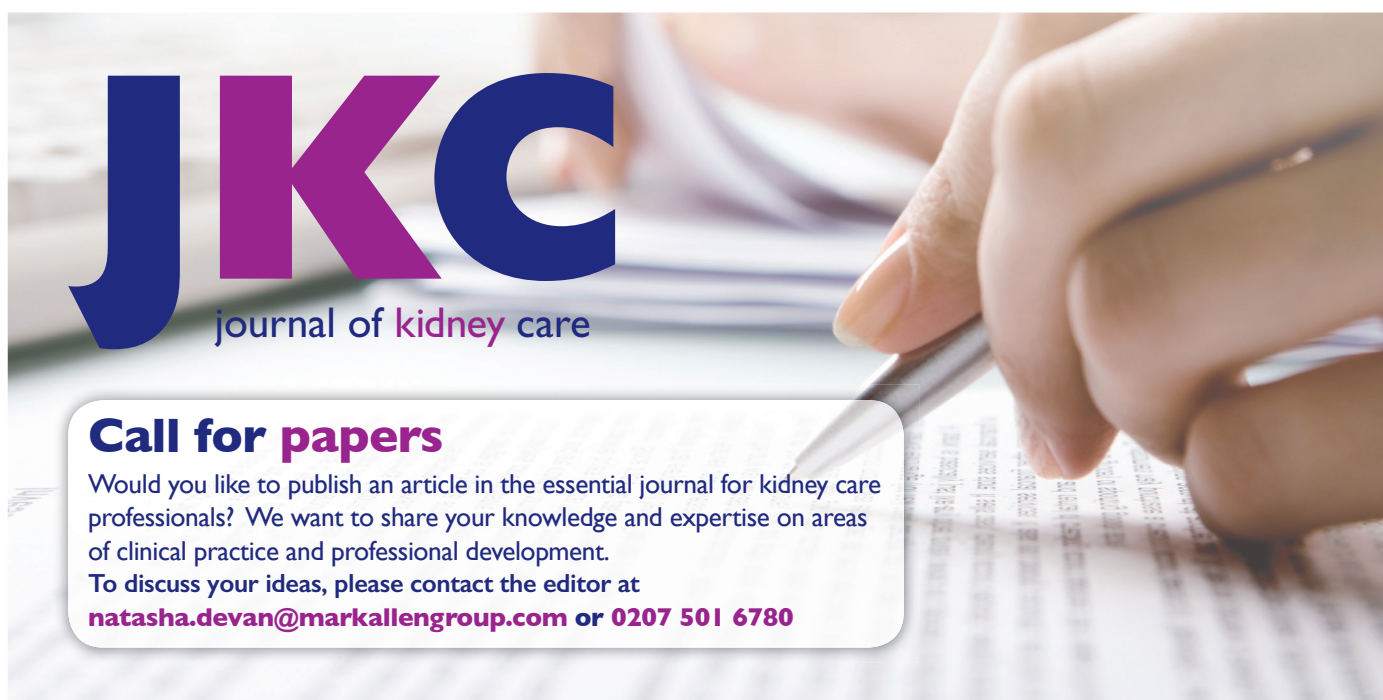
The KQuIP initiative is only at the start of its journey. The unique nature of KQuIP, namely its strength and sustainability, lies in the fact that it has been created by the renal community for the renal community.

KQuIP calls on everyone concerned with developing, delivering and receiving kidney services to get involved; to drive these ambitions; and to ensure that QI is embedded in renal service delivery across the whole kidney community.

The website will be live to coincide with KQuIP's launch during UK Kidney Week in June 2016—the address for this will be www.thinkkidneys.nhs.uk/kquip **JKC**

References

- Kidney Health: Delivering Excellence (2013) *A Kidney Health Report*. <http://tinyurl.com/p7r5odk> (accessed 16 May 2016)
- Ormandy P, Wells L, Cullen R, Fluck R, Thomas K, Bristow P, Lipkin G (2015) Kidney Quality Improvement partnership: a sustainable initiative. *Journal of Renal Nursing* 7(5): 234–6. doi: 10.12968/jorn.2015.7.5.234



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