



## A nurse led initiative to improve the education and treatment of continuous renal replacement therapy within the paediatric critical care setting

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### Background

Continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) is a vital aspect of paediatric critical care nursing, CRRT is often sporadic in its usage in Paediatric Critical Care (PCC) resulting in staff not using the equipment for long periods of time which reduces confidence and competency. Additionally, critical incidents relating to CRRT showed a demand for improved education and support for staff delivering this care in PCC

#### Objectives

- To increase the senior nursing team members within the CRRT interest group
- To review the strategy for nurse education and maintaining competency and proficiency
- To develop and provide a frequent and easily accessible study day for staff to attend
- Create links with clinical governance to review incidents, areas required for improved practice and to guide learning

### Methods

A review was undertaken to develop a core team of senior nursing staff as superusers within a CRRT interest group. A review of the education and training in CRRT was organised to provide set monthly study sessions. Attendees were asked to complete a survey using mixed method research questions to review their experiences and areas for further improvement. Thematic analysis was undertaken to collate topics that were seen as important in improving confidence and competence. Additionally, close links set up between interest group and clinical governance, PCC technicians and incident reviews within PCC to aid in improving CRRT practice.

### Conclusions

A CRRT education programme is invaluable in maintaining the knowledge and skills of staff. To date, over 65% of staff have accessed these study days in their own time, demonstrating a need to support their own learning, further supported by their evaluations for the effectiveness and importance of the support provided by the CRRT interest group. Additionally, with a commitment to incident reviews to aid education and development, this ultimately contributes towards improved practice within PCC. The future aim of this project due to its success is to advance to a mandatory training programme including competency passports and improved review of staff competencies and education.

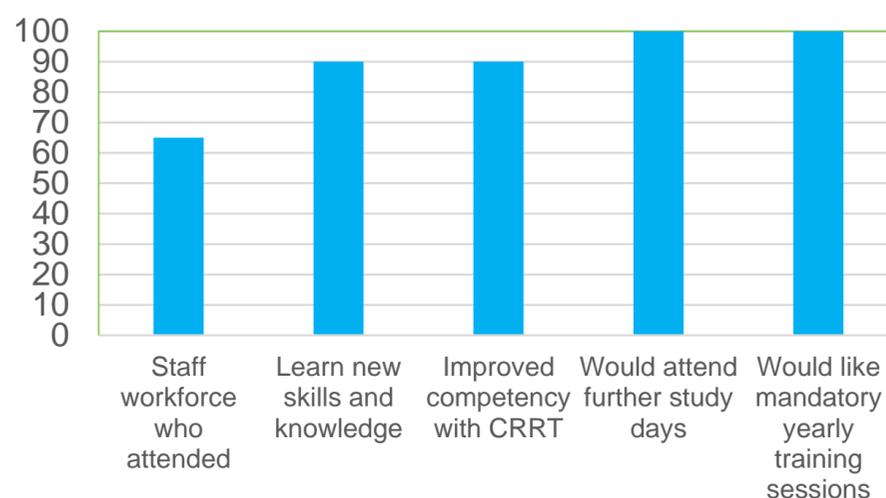
### Results

A senior team within the CRRT group was expanded to help facilitate study days, education and reach the project objectives. To date over 65% of the nursing workforce have attended the study sessions in their own time indicating a significant need for education and support relating to this therapy. Staff feedback from these study days has further supported this and help guide the education plan for the study sessions.

Staff of all skill levels and competency have attended the study sessions which have been facilitated to take place monthly and provide support and awareness for CRRT. The staff feedback obtained has shown that 90% of staff felt they have improved levels of clinical competency from both a theory and practical aspect. Feedback also showed the need for this support and guidance relating to CRRT in order to maintain competency and clinical practice within PCC and ultimately improve the level of care provided for patients receiving CRRT.

A thorough review of monthly incidents utilising links with clinical governance and the critical care technicians has also provided an improved response to incidents and identifying learning needs.

#### Staff feedback from the study sessions



### References

1. Guidelines for Continuous Renal Replacement therapy on PICU using the Prismaflex. 1st September 2015 PICU Clinical Governance meeting
2. Windt. K. (2016) Development of online learning modules as an adjunct to skills fairs and lectures to maintain nurses competency and comfort level when caring for paediatric patients requiring CRRT. Nephrology Nursing Journal 43: 1(pp 39-47)