

## DESIGNING A POST REGISTRATION RENAL COURSE THAT IS FIT FOR PURPOSE

S Russell, R Gair  
Derriford Hospital, Plymouth

**PROBLEM:** The renal services national service framework (2001) state that the renal workforce needs to be developed to ensure there is sufficient skill and expertise to deliver the proposed national service standards and that the role of the nurse is pivotal.

Renal nurses have an extended role, which correlates with increased accountability and as such need academic modules that fit the needs of the working environment.

**PURPOSE:** Evaluation of the renal course offered by the local university showed that it was not meeting individual or unit needs and for the last year was not taken up by the trusts. Following consultation from senior renal nurses at operational level across three trusts, a specialist renal course has been developed across the organisations to meet the educational needs of the geographical area.

**DESIGN:** The provision of the modules to run at level 2 and level 3 in academic partnership with the local university was influenced by a curriculum planning team made up of a multi-professional team of senior nurses, consultants, pharmacists, and dieticians from the three units. Teaching utilises the multi-professional team and assessment is both theoretical and practical covering all aspects of renal nursing

**FINDINGS:** The first course is now in progress and evaluation so far is positive. It is anticipated that improved organisation and teaching by clinical experts at a hospital site will not only improve the learning experience but also attrition rates. It has also highlighted the need for an advanced renal module to accommodate the professional development of staff that completed a renal course many years ago

**Conclusion:** Renal nurses require a post registration course which ensures them to be fit for purpose and to meet the demands of the clinical area. It has also improved communication and collaboration between units and shown the possibility of designing an academic renal pathway.

**RELEVANCE:** Clinical and academic partnerships are gaining in popularity, they develop practitioners who are capable of responding to the challenge of flexibility within the renal setting, by teaching core skills and knowledge based practice within sub specialities.