

## THE CREATION OF A MULTIDISCIPLINARY AUDIT AND CLINICAL EFFECTIVENESS GROUP

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Renal units have historically been involved in a lot of audit. Experience, and papers from other centres have demonstrated that audits undertaken in isolation by interested individuals rarely result in positive changes to practice. In 2001 we formed the Renal Audit and Clinical Effectiveness group (RACE) with the remit of:

1. Identify areas of practice needing to be audited (from clinical opinion and current research)
2. Design audit tool where needed
3. Collect and review data
4. Identify good and poor practice
5. Identify ways of improving practice / identify resources / people needed
6. Identify relevant research to inform changes in practice
7. Support changes
8. Re-audit

We anticipated that this group, if truly multidisciplinary would:

- establish links between individuals within practice areas and individuals with specific audit / data management skills
- establish a realistic timetable for audits to take place / for data to be reviewed
- establish reporting mechanism for reporting need for resources to care group
- establish mechanism for individuals within the Renal Unit to report ideas for audit to RACE team

We hold monthly meetings which are attended by representatives of all the professions. During 2002 and 2003 we have:

- coordinated the publication of the annual activity and audit report
- introduced some staff to audit
- coordinated the unit submission to the trust clinical effectiveness and audit committee
- coordinated a rolling programme of audit and reform affecting all areas of the unit
- led on change in practice in (among others): blood-borne virus control, management of peritonitis and haemodialysis access creation

The increased workload and the tangible benefits of this strategy have led to the creation of two nursing posts which support audit part time. We feel that our inclusive, coordinated audit strategy is reaping rewards for the unit as well as the people involved.