

“SKIPPING” OVER THE DOCUMENTATION HURDLE

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The multi-professional team identified that there was inadequate recording of the actions taken and observations made when inserting a renal dialysis catheter. The team wanted to establish a logical, structured way of documenting the intervention to ensure that right actions were being taken and any potential risks minimised. The objective was to reduce the possibility of renal dialysis catheter related bacteraemia and to provide an effective audit trail that demonstrated good practice had been consistently applied.

In improving documentation standards, the multi-professional team devised a simple acronym – “S-C-I-P”. S-C-I-P covers the core requirements of: **S**creening, **C**leaning, **I**nsertion, **P**ost insertion care. It provides a concise, step by step and easy to remember framework to facilitate the consistent application of core documentation for renal dialysis catheter insertion.

With the framework established, an audit tool was designed to measure whether there had been any improvements in documentation practices.

Two months following the introduction of S-C-I-P, a random sample of patient notes were reviewed to: determine compliance with the documentation requirements, highlight areas of good practice, identify gaps and provide further focus for improvement.

From the audit results, it has been demonstrated that documentation is more consistent and structured. Improvements to both the recording of screening outcomes and special follow up instructions have emerged as areas for further development.

Checking compliance and sustainability is essential to ensure that practice is consistently applied and improving. Documentation acts as a prompt for best practice and provides a source of audit data for continuous improvement.