

REASON WHY?

Fluid balance charts allow for assessment of fluid in the patient. The fluid balance charts therefore allow us to assess if the patient requires any additional fluids such as IV fluids or if they should be fluid restricted. If we do not identify the fluid needs of our patients, this can lead to electrolyte imbalances which can have serious effects such as arrhythmias.

PLAN

I planned to assess whether the fluid balance charts were being correctly completed on the urological patients on ward 37. Due to my personal experience of assessing fluid charts on ward round I have predicted that the fluid balance charts may be incomplete in some patients. I planned to assess the following criteria:

1. Do they have a chart (if indicated) ?
2. Is yesterdays fluid balance at the top of todays form completed?
3. Are the inputs and outputs being added to the chart throughout the day?
4. Are the totals being added clearly at the bottom to allow the charts to be easily reviewed?

DO

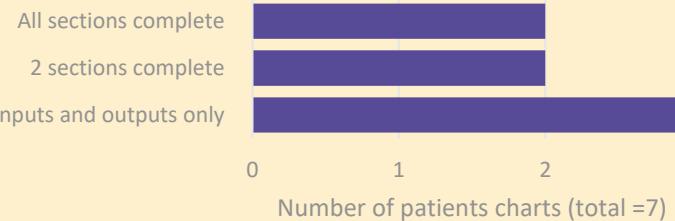
I assessed urological patients' fluid balance charts over 2 days on ward 37. I reviewed the notes of each patient to see if a chart was required. When a chart was required, I assessed which sections of the fluid balance chart were being completed and which sections were incomplete. I added this information into a premade table to ensure I collated factual evidence. After collecting the data, as seen in the chart, I arranged a meeting with the ward manager to see how we could improve the fluid balance chart completion. We discussed the best methods for change, concluding that I will personally communicate with the nurses and HCAs in addition to the ward manager raising the importance at huddles/ briefs.



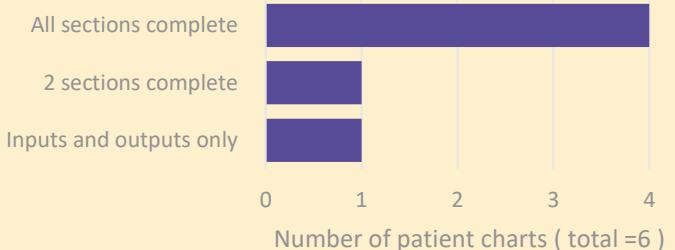
Following a review of fluid balance chart, I am to improve the amount that are fully completed to 80% by the 15th November 2025

STUDY

Sections of fluid balance charts completed before intervention

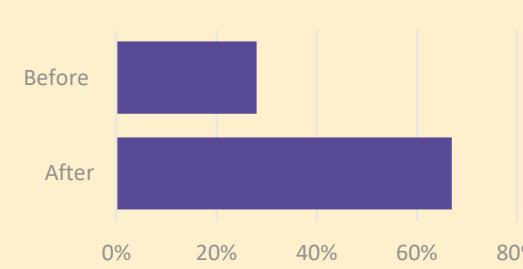


Sections of fluid balance chart completed after intervention



As highlighted from the graphs, the interventions had a positive effect on the completion of fluid balance charts. This is highlighted by an increase in full completion of fluid balance charts from 2/7 to 4/6 patient charts. It also showed an improvement in the number of fluid balance charts which only had inputs and outputs from 3/7 patients to 1/6 fluid balance charts. This improvement, will hopefully enable patients' fluid balance status to be identified earlier enabling faster treatment and therefore recovery, particularly post operatively.

% of charts fully completed



ACT

I plan to adopt and adapt my project. So far, the interventions have showed an improvement, however, not to 80% completion which was my aim. As a result of this I will involve other students into my project to enable more interventions to take place. We will do this by performing another PDSA cycle with the same interventions and new ones such as a poster for visual reminders. This repeat PDSA will hopefully highlight further improvement to 80% for full completion of fluid balance charts in urological patients.