

The Kidney Quality Improvement Partnership

■ COVID-19 ■ collaboration ■ education

The UK Kidney Association's Kidney Quality Improvement Partnership (KQuIP) is a collaborative improvement partnership that works across charities, industry groups, professional bodies and the NHS. The partnership works to support and upskill multi-professional teams, apply quality improvement and leadership, and improve the experiences of people living with kidney disease across the UK. Initial priorities were agreed by the kidney community at a national design event in 2017.

Three national quality improvement projects have been launched in the past years – DAYLife (access to home dialysis), MAGIC (best practice cannulation) and Transplant First (access to kidney transplantation). Detailed information on the projects can be accessed at: www.ukkidney.org/kquip/projects-0

COVID-19 and beyond

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic led to unprecedented demand and disruption across NHS services. While the three national projects remain a priority, post-pandemic challenges are influencing their implementation; for example, the pausing of transplant and vascular access surgery, staff redeployment, and the rapid

growth of virtual care delivery.

As the direct pressures from the pandemic ease, there are now opportunities emerging to revive paused projects, collaborate further and improve. This is imperative, as the NHS is moving from the central commissioning of specialist services towards 42 new Integrated Care Systems, which will be supported by newly formed regional renal networks. In 2021, Renal Getting it Right First Time (GIRFT) published a series of recommendations for renal services in England, while the Renal Service Transformation Programme (RSTP) identified 10 high impact changes that the renal community could come together to focus on (GRIFT, 2022). KQuIP can support the kidney community's response to these national drivers for change, and utilise learning from over five years of improvement across key areas of kidney care. To date, KQuIP has:

- Supported regional improvement programmes across nine regions in England, Wales and the paediatric kidney programme, working with the multidisciplinary team (MDT) and patients. Through doing so, it has helped address variation in services for people with kidney disease
- Delivered a national residential renal leadership course to 133 members of the kidney MDT
- Engaged and supported a network of national leaders through workshops and quality improvement (QI) training
- Adapted and applied a 10-step QI methodology based on the IHI's model for improvement across the kidney community's improvement priorities (Institute for Healthcare Improvement, 2022)
- Identified and tested change ideas covering the patient pathway from advanced kidney care to pre-

emptive transplantation

- Supported a multi-professional national dialysis COVID-19 safety group and helped develop recommendations for minimising infections in dialysis units, and promoted and audited the implementation of the recommendations nationally (UK Kidney Association, 2022c)
- Captured and displayed successful change ideas, projects and barriers to improvement on the KQuIP improvement hub online (UK Kidney Association, 2022b)

Improvement highlights from across our projects

- A QI project led by the kidney team at Salford Royal Hospital used rapid cycles of change and the KQuIP COVID-19 dialysis recommendations to significantly reduce COVID-19 related mortality and hospitalisation for patients receiving haemodialysis at their unit (Poulidakos et al, 2021)
- Data from the MAGIC project has indicated positive changes in practice in cannulation as well an increase in arteriovenous (AV) access rates (Renal Interventions, 2021)
- As part of Transplant First, a team implementing living donor assessment seminars found them to reduce DNA rates for transplant clinics and give nurses additional time to support other essential services
- As part of the Dialysis at Yours (DAYLife) project, one team designed a sustainable unplanned start to peritoneal dialysis (PD) pathway that has been successful in increasing the uptake of PD amongst those who need to start dialysis suddenly (UK Kidney Association, 2022a)

There are many more examples of

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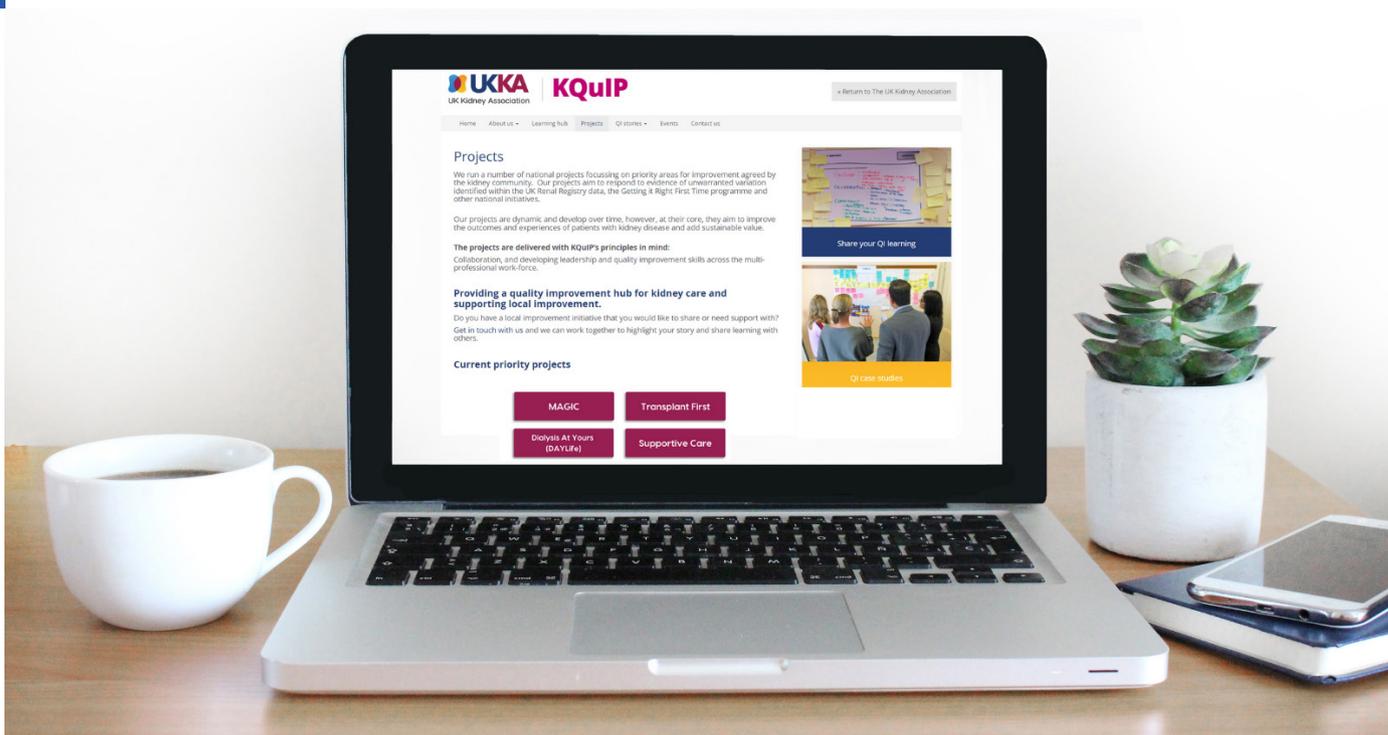
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UKKA's 2022 projects page

fabulous innovations across KQuIP's national projects which are being shared on our learning hub for teams to read about and implement locally – visit the QI section of the UK Kidney Association website to read more.

Moving into 2022, KQuIP will aim to:

- Integrate KQuIP quality improvement activity into regional renal networks, offer a supportive framework and a tried and tested methodology to deliver improvement priorities, and achieve sustainable change
- Capture, share and learn from patient experience through focus groups, insight sessions, links with patient organisations and case stories, as well as the Kidney Care UK national kidney patient experience measure survey, with a focus on reducing health inequalities
- Elevate and communicate regional and local improvements by facilitating the sharing of best practice and learning between regional networks and local kidney teams. The projects will use the national KQuIP faculty, continue to develop and keep update the national

online improvement hub, and build a suite of tried and tested interventions ready for scaling up

- Provide national education and training through webinars, and highlight and share the learning that emerges from regional or local quality improvement work on kidney care delivery and improvement
- Provide measurement support for improvement, review regional QI progress data in order to target support to address variance, and provide QI measurement tools such as process charts, run-charts and dashboards.

KQuIP is excited to build momentum and energy around quality improvement in 2022 and beyond, in collaboration with the RSTP, NHS teams, regional networks, devolved nations and all our partners. We hope to achieve the recommendations advocated by GIRFT and bring kidney care improvements to people living with kidney disease in the UK. **JKC**

References

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