

Haemofiltration-Education in a nurse led service of a tertiary referral Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)

D Colvin (Sister PICU), C Corbet (Sister, PICU), L Heggan (Sister, PICU)

Over the past 10 years within the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit, at this tertiary care center, haemofiltration has been a nurse led service, overseen by Consultant Intensivists.

Haemofiltration is required by approximately 40 patients per year for a variety of different clinical reasons, including, sepsis causing multi-organ failure and inborn errors of metabolism.

The education and training of the nursing staff is paramount to the success of this service.

A bi-annual course in haemofiltration is organized and is open to those nurses with a pre-requisite of an intensive care qualification and to the medical staff on PICU.

Prior to the commencement of the course, the nurses must complete pre-course reading, within this time they are expected to have updated their knowledge on the anatomy and physiology of the renal system.

This intensive course covers all aspects of haemofiltration: from indications for and complications of haemofiltration, fluid and electrolyte management, to practical sessions on lining, priming and trouble shooting the haemofiltration machine.

Following the course, nurses are then classified as trainees. During this critical period these nurses will only work with an experienced haemofiltration nurse, gaining both competence and confidence in the practical and theoretical skills abounding this subject.

Keeping in line with Clinical Governance and the Clinical Negligence scheme for Trusts within the United Kingdom, a competency book has been developed. This also formalizes the education path for the haemofiltration trainee, from that of Advanced beginner, to that of an Expert practitioner.

D Colvin

Paediatric Intensive Care Unit, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust, Great Ormond Street, London, WC1N 3JH, United Kingdom.

Fax number 0044 2078138206

Email: colvid@gosh.nhs.uk