Royal Berkshire NHS
NHS Foundation Trust

Life Threatening Haemorrhage (LTH) – turning a negative into a positive

Royal Berkshire Hospital (RBH), Reading

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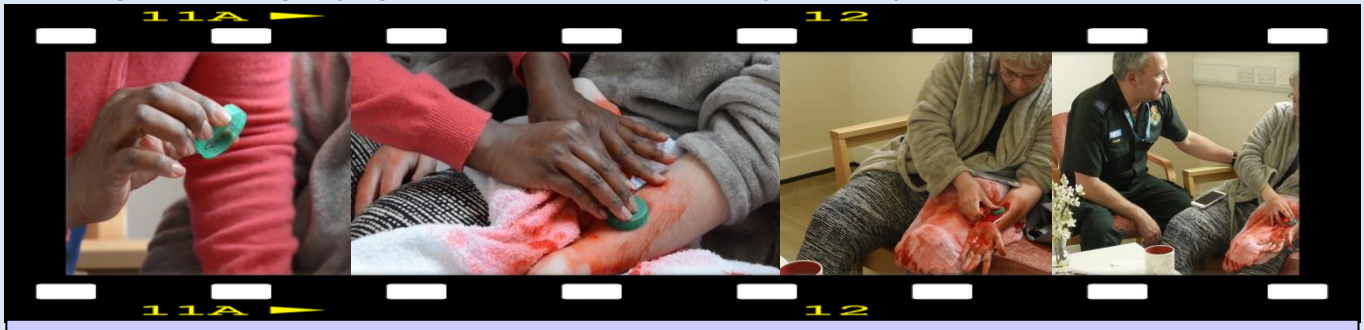
Introduction

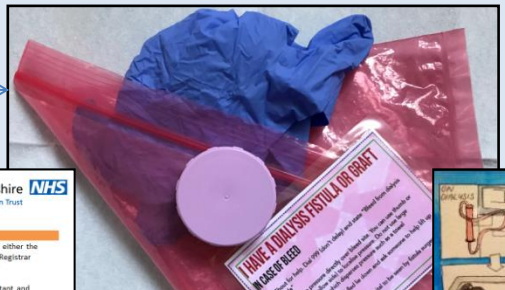
In July 2018, a chronic haemodialysis patient suffered a cardiac arrest and subsequent death, following a massive haemorrhage from her left brachio-cephalic AV fistula. She was 61 years old and had been dialysing for 10 years. Prior to her death she had been thoroughly assessed and reviewed by the vascular access surgeons, having had two herald bleeds from her fistula. It was crucial for both staff and patients to learn from this tragic event.

Following MDT meetings, a programme of education was developed and implemented.

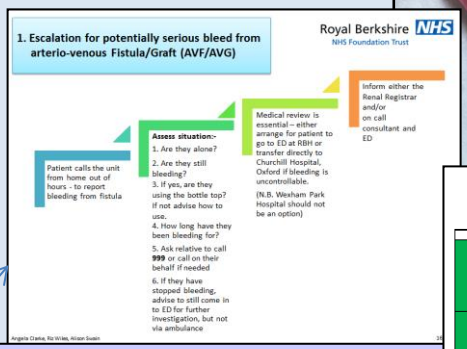


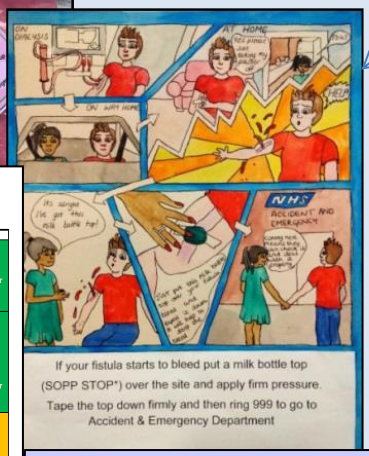
Screen shots from the training DVD we produced - educating all staff to know what to do in the event of LTH

Emergency care packs given out to all patients, with instructions on what to do

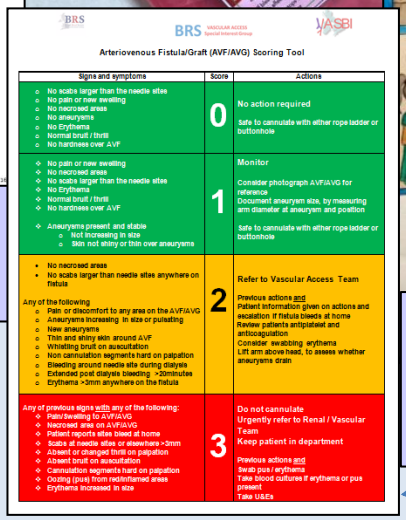


We produced a poster for patients, now displayed in all our dialysis units



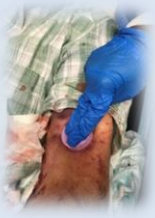


Emergency algorithm – used across all of the renal dept. & ED - all staff are trained and aware



Our ambulance & transport service staff were included

Pre-cannulation assessment & scoring system - highlights & monitors 'at risk' fistulae. This is regularly audited.



Outcome

Since then we have had two life threatening bleeds. On both occasions the bottle top was used & was successful. Training has made all the difference.

Conclusion

All attempts have been made to try and prevent any further catastrophic incidents of this nature.
Continuous scrutiny is however critical in assessing for this complication to ensure the safety of our patients on dialysis.