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Ousey, Karen

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An evaluation of the management of faecal incontinence in two intensive care units

Dr Karen Ousey University of Huddersfield

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Background

- Little research in the management of acute incontinence.
- Consensus meeting
- NICE Guidance (2007):
 - "Healthcare professionals should consider a faecal collection device for people in intensive care settings and people receiving palliative care with faecal incontinence and associated loose stools"

Sample

- Intensive care services delivered by Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust
- Huddersfield and Calderdale has a population of 435,000.
- Current estimates of in-patient activity, in the intensive care units combined, suggest a 200 patient throughput in a 3 month period and of these, 20-25% will have faecal incontinence problem.

Aims and objectives of study

- An evaluation of current practice in faecal incontinence (FI) management in two intensive therapy units
- To establish the current evidence base in faecal incontinence management in acute settings.
- To observe current faecal incontinence management in intensive care.

- To explore the impact of faecal incontinence to patients, staff and the organisation.
- To establish or re-develop an audit - driven protocol for intervention in faecal incontinence.
- To involve clinical nursing staff in the service evaluation /audit and research process.

Data (Stage 1)

- Prevalence of FI in ITU.
- Cause of FI.
- FI management.
- No. of FI episodes
- Pharmacology.
- Biochemistry.
- Nursing time.

Results

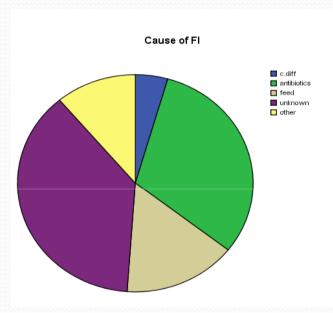
Dates	Unit	In Patient No.	Patients with FI	Estimated prevalence per unit % (interval)
16/3/09 — 16/4/09	CRI	18	5	27
	HRI	57	11	19
16/4/09 — 16/6/09	CRI	34	8	23
	HRI	92	21	23
	Total	201	45	
	Total Estimated Prevalence of FI (3 months)			22 (22.39)

Mean Age; FI patients: **63** M: F: **40: 60 (%).**

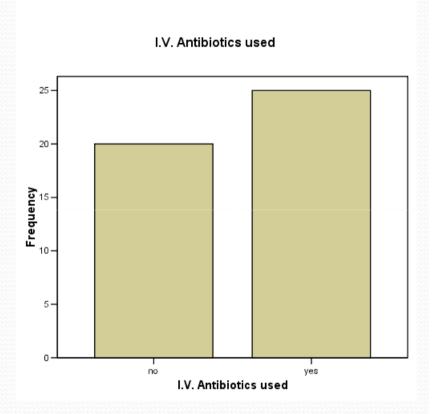
Reason for ITU Admission

Cause	n	%
Respiratory	12	27
Sepsis	7	15
Surgery	7	15
Renal	3	7
Cardiac arrest	3	7
Overdose	1	
Misc. other	12	

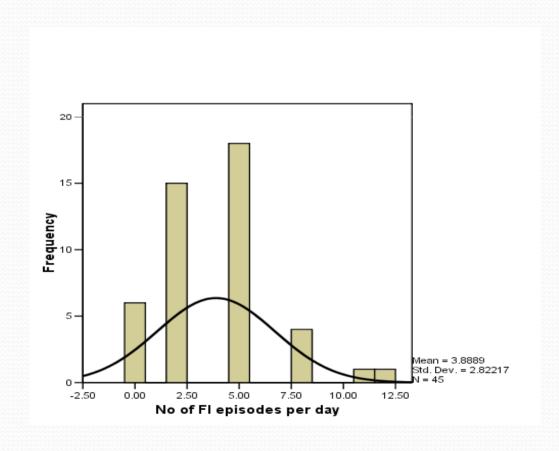
Faecal Incontinence: Cause.



Cause	n	%
Unknown	17	38
Antibiotics	14	31
Feed	7	16
c.diff.	2	4
Other	5	11



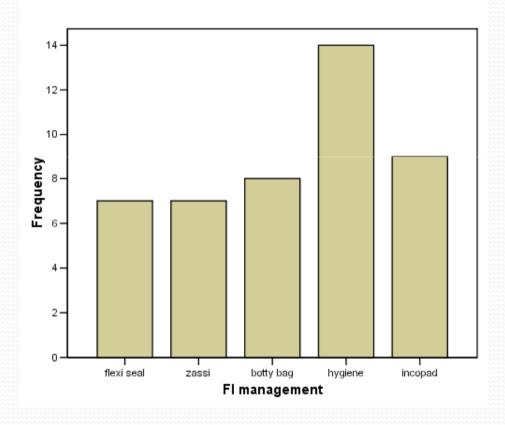
No. of FI episodes (24 hour estimate)



FI Management

Management	n	%
Hygiene	14	31
Incontinence pad	9	20
Faecal collection bag	8	19
Flexi-Seal	7	15
BMS	7	15

FI management



Waterlow Score

Management	Mean Score	Risk
Flexi-Seal	24.86	Very High
BMS	20.17	Very High
Faecal collector	18.75	High
Hygiene	18.86	High
Incopad	21.22	Very High
Total	20.45	Very High

Skin Breakdown

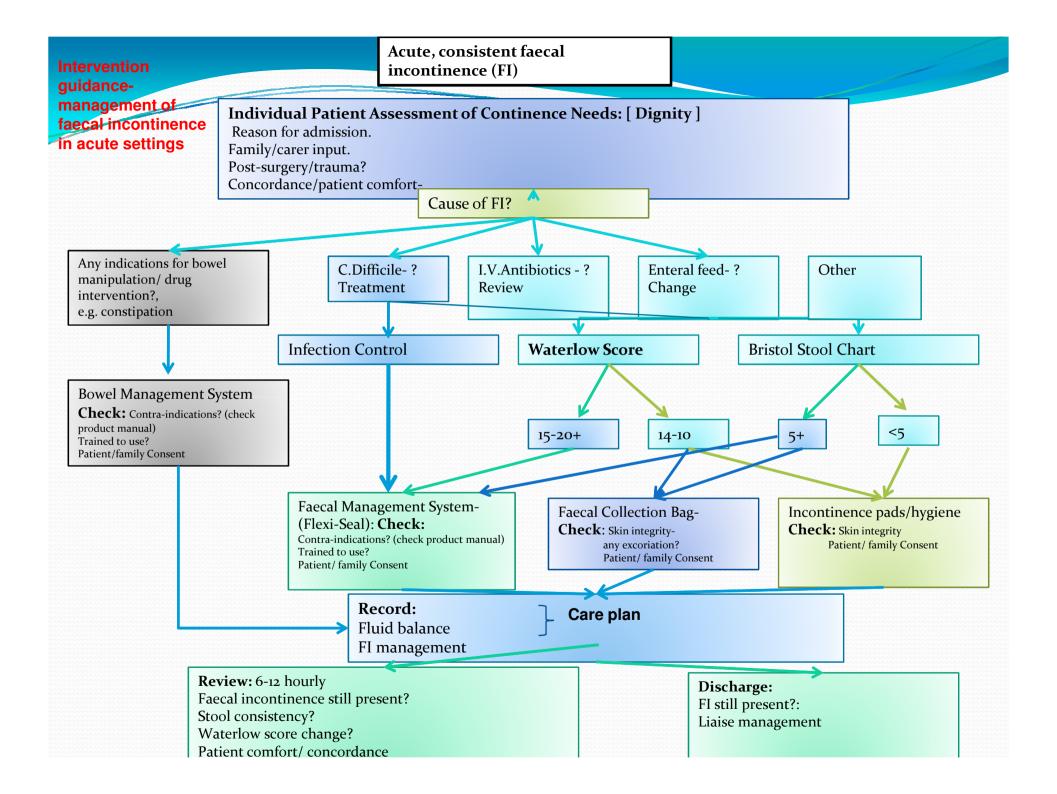
• 10 (22%) of patients had peri-anal skin breakdown after the onset of FI:

FI management of the 10 with skin breakdown:

- ☐ Flexi-Seal: o (o%)
- ☐ Hygiene: 3 (30%).
- ☐ Incontinence Pad: 2 (20%)
- ☐ Faecal collection Bag: 2 (20%)
- □ BMS: 3 (30%)

Management Options

- Intervention Protocol.
- Individualised patient assessment.
- Justification for management choice:
- Flexi-Seal Collection system.
- Faecal collection bag.
- BMS Collection system.
- Digni care
- Incontinence pads.
- Hygiene.



Summary

- Systematic approach to FI management is required.
- There is an education and training need.
- Resource/cost issues.
- Effective and individualised, patient concordant, management is achievable.
- National guideline.