Communication between inpatient and outpatient nephrologists is essential for optimal continuity of care of medically complex patients with end stage renal disease (ESRD). Real time communication should be encouraged as outpatient nephrologists often play a large role in post-discharge care through frequent visits with their ESRD patients.

**Project Goal**
- To successfully communicate with outpatient nephrologists for >75% of inpatient ESRD consultations
- To identify predictors associated with successful communication

**Project Plan**
1. All fellows were provided with education regarding the importance of communication with outpatient nephrologists.
2. A standardized phrase that documented successful communication was created by the study team and shared amongst the nephrology fellows (communication phrase).
3. The quality team at UCSF queried Apex monthly basis identify all patients in whom an “Initial ESRD Consult Note” had been written (denominator) and for whom the communication phrase had been used in any note during that admission (numerator).
4. Fellows were given feedback monthly on the proportion of ESRD consults with successful communication.
5. Logistic regression was used to evaluate predictors associated with home nephrologist communication using STATA 13.

**Results**

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<th>Percent of ESRD Consults in Which Communication with Home Nephrologist was Documented, AY13-14 (n=412)</th>
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<td>88%</td>
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Our goal of at least 75% of outpatient nephrologists contacted was met in 7/9 months!

**Lessons Learned**
- From 7/13 to 3/14 we had an overall success rate of 79%.
- Initial consults completed over the weekend had lower odds of communication with outpatient nephrologists, regardless of length of stay (LOS).
- LOS was not associated with successful communication.
- Reminding fellows about the project early in the month was an important facilitator of successful use of the communication phrase.

1. There was no evidence of interaction between weekend consults and LOS<48hrs, interaction p=0.90.

**Moving Forward**
1. Continue to emphasize communication between inpatient and outpatient nephrologists for ESRD patients
2. Work to incorporate this practice at SFGH and SFVA
3. Identify barriers to successful communication
4. Generate strategies to improve our communication with outpatient nephrologists for weekend consults
5. Encourage documentation of the actual information that has been relayed to outpatient providers

We would like to THANK our nephrology colleagues and the UCSF Quality team!

Please contact either Naomi Anker or Stephanie Shieh (via outlook or pagerbox) if any questions.