

IMPLEMENTATION OF A PHARMACIST POTASSIUM MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL IN THE ACUTE CARE SETTING (B4), Sanaz Farhadian. Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program, West Los Angeles, CA ([sanaz.x.farhadian@kp.org](mailto:sanaz.x.farhadian@kp.org)) IRB approved.

Electrolyte abnormalities in the acute care setting may be due to a variety of causes, and the consequences can manifest from asymptomatic to life-threatening. Many acutely ill patients are at risk for potassium abnormalities secondary to their admitting diagnoses, comorbid disease(s), and the results of hospitalization. Furthermore, potassium imbalances may complicate a patient's hospital stay, as well as, the patient's comorbidities. The objective of this study was to determine the impact of a pharmacist potassium management protocol on the number of bolus orders used to normalize potassium levels in stable patients. A pharmacist managed potassium protocol was developed, and then implemented upon approval by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. From February through March 2009, patients 18 years of age or older, admitted to a medical/surgical ward for at least 24 hours, with potassium levels within the lower or upper range of normal were evaluated. Patients with poor or unstable renal function were excluded. The effectiveness of the protocol was evaluated by comparing the number of potassium bolus orders before and after implementation. The results will be presented and discussed.