

# GLOBAL SUMMIT ON NEPHROLOGY, UROLOGY AND KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION

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## An audit of renal ultrasounds for new referrals to the nephrology outpatients service

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**Background:** The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) (2021) guidelines for the assessment and management of chronic kidney disease set out indications for ordering renal ultrasounds.

**Aim:** The aim of this audit was to identify the number of renal ultrasounds ordered for new referrals to a nephrology outpatient service, whether the reason for these ultrasounds met the NICE guidelines, how many ultrasounds were ordered for each indication and whether the outcome of the scan was normal or abnormal.

**Findings:** There were 287 referrals to the nephrology outpatient service, which were reviewed as to whether the ultrasound request met the guidelines. From the 278 new referrals, 139 had a renal ultrasound ordered. Out of these, 57 met the criteria for having an ultrasound, while 82 requests did not meet the guidelines. The top three request that met the NICE guidelines were accelerated progression of chronic kidney disease, visible or persistent invisible haematuria and having symptoms of urinary tract obstruction (see Figure 1).

**Conclusion:** This audit highlights the frequency with which inappropriate ordering occurs, as well as the ongoing need for education amongst clinicians on appropriate indications and the potential cost deficits involved.

### Biography

Varisha Shahzad is a distinguished healthcare professional based in Ireland, renowned for her expertise and dedication at Mater Misericordiae University Hospital. Graduating with a bachelor's degree in Medicine from the esteemed institution, she demonstrated exceptional commitment to patient care and clinical excellence. Specializing in nephrology, her practice is characterized by compassion and evidence-based methodologies. Beyond her clinical duties, she actively contributes to medical research and education, shaping the future of healthcare. With a strong emphasis on community service and patient well-being, she continues to inspire colleagues and patients alike with her unwavering commitment to excellence in healthcare delivery.