

East Midlands rounded approach to prevent AF-related strokes

Rebuilding lives after stroke



What was the aim of the project?

The project aimed to improve the diagnosis and appropriate management of patients with atrial fibrillation across East Midlands.

What was the outcome of the project?

The project has supported Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and general practices to deliver significant improvements with an additional 7,017 patients diagnosed with AF (9.7% increase) and 5,898 additional high risk AF patients have been anticoagulated (22.4% increase).

Who was involved?

East Midlands Cardiovascular Strategic Clinical Network, Clinical Commissioning Groups, General Practices

Details of the project

The Clinical Network created AF slide sets individualised for each CCG to make a compelling case for action to the CCG. The slide sets explained why they should focus on stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation, provided comparative data on diagnosis

and anticoagulation provision at CCG and practice level, and included information on how to make improvements and what changes are required.

Work undertaken in the East Midlands includes:

- Presentations have been delivered to CCG Boards and Clinical Cabinets within CCGs to make the case for improving stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation.
- All CCGs in the region have been supported to implement up-skilling training for GPs in atrial fibrillation including Clinical Network funding for up-skilling events.
- CCGs have also been supported to implement Grasp-AF to assist with improving diagnosis and management of AF, including upload of data to Chart Online.
- All CCGs now have access to NOACs as a choice in line with NICE Guidance. The development and promotion of the adoption of an electronic clinical template for diagnosis and management of AF. The Warfarin Patient Safety Audit Tool, which identifies the high priority patients who are not on effective stroke prevention, has been built into the AF clinical template.

To support delivery of sustained improvements in atrial fibrillation a Community of Practice workshop focused on AF was held in January 2016, which supported CCGs to explore the challenges and opportunities to deliver continued improvements in the diagnosis and management of atrial fibrillation. This included demonstration of equipment to support diagnosis of atrial fibrillation, sharing of work undertaken in East midlands and nationally to improve AF management as well as examples of support available through pharmaceutical companies.

A pilot project will see the deployment of AF screening kiosks in 5 GP practices within East Midlands, intended to improve the detection of atrial fibrillation in primary care.

What impact is the project having?

Primary care QOF data shows that these initiatives are driving the delivery of significant improvements in AF diagnosis and management within East Midlands. Between March 2013 and March 2015, 7,017 additional patients have been diagnosed with AF (an increase of 9.7%) and 5,898 additional high risk AF patients have been anticoagulated (an increase of 22.4%). These changes will prevent an estimated 159 strokes and 53 deaths per year.

For further information?

East Midlands Clinical Network website:
www.emclinicalnetworks.nhs.uk

We're here for you. If you'd like to know more please get in touch.
Stroke Helpline: **0333 567 0841**
Website: stroke.org.uk/gethelp
Email: info@stroke.org.uk
From a textphone: **18001 0303 3033 100**

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