



## Atrial Fibrillation in Your Area

**Question 1: Between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015, in the area covered by your CCG:**

- a) What was the prevalence of atrial fibrillation (AF)?
- b) How many patients were diagnosed with AF?
- c) How many patients received a manual pulse check for AF?

Unfortunately NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group do not currently hold data relating to Atrial Fibrillation for 2014-15 as data is recorded on clinical systems. Some of the data would be reported via QOF from HSCIC however the only data published to date is for 2013/14 attached.

**Question 2: Which of the criteria listed below is included in the personalised package of care offered to patients with AF? (Please tick the boxes that apply)**

### Personalised Package of Care and Information

**NICE Clinical Guideline 180 – Atrial Fibrillation: the management of atrial fibrillation makes the following recommendation on offering patients with AF a personalised package of care:**

- Offer people with atrial fibrillation a personalised package of care. Ensure that the package of care is documented and delivered, and that it covers:
  - AF-related stroke awareness and measures to prevent AF-related stroke
  - rate control
  - assessment of symptoms for rhythm control
  - who to contact for advice if needed
  - psychological support if needed
  - up-to-date and comprehensive education and information on:
    - cause, effects and possible complications of atrial fibrillation
    - management of rate and rhythm control
  - anticoagulation; practical advice on anticoagulation in line with recommendation 1.3.1 in 'Venous thromboembolic diseases' (NICE clinical guideline 144)
  - support networks (for example, cardiovascular charities).



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Unfortunately NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group would be unable to answer this question as GP Surgeries are the main providers. I would suggest that you contact NHS England directly on: [England.contactus@nhs.net](mailto:England.contactus@nhs.net)

**Question 3: What steps does your CCG take to verify that patients with AF are being offered a personalised package of care?**

Please see the answer to question 2.

**Question 4: What support networks and information are advertised and provided to patients with AF?**

This information is held by Public Health England I suggest you contact them directly on: [FOI@phe.gov.uk](mailto:FOI@phe.gov.uk).

**Question 5: Between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015, how many patients in the area covered by your CCG have been referred for specialised management due to:**

- a.) Failure of AF treatment to control the symptoms of AF?
- b.) Recurrence of AF following cardioversion?

Please see the answer to question 1.

**Question 6: What steps do your providers take to ensure that people with any of the above conditions are assessed for AF-related stroke risk using the CHA2DS2-VASc stroke risk score?**

These steps are covered in the new Strategic Clinical Network AF Pathway, which has been full adopted by NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group.

**Question 7: What steps do your providers take to ensure that the HAS-BLED score is used to assess the risk of bleeding in people who are starting or have started anticoagulation?**

Please see answer to question 6.

**Questions 8: Of the patients who were treated for AF in the area covered by your CCG between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015, how many had a CHA2DS2-VASc score of 2 or above?**

Please see the answer to question 1.

**Question 9: Of these patients, how many were treated for AF-related stroke prevention with:**

- a.) Anticoagulation therapy (therapy which reduces the body's ability to form clots in the blood)?
- b.) Aspirin monotherapy (the treatment of AF with aspirin alone)?

Please see the answer to question 1.

**Question 10: What guidance do you give to your providers to ensure they are prescribing an appropriate anticoagulant approved by NICE for AF-related stroke prevention rather than aspirin monotherapy?**

Please see answer to question 6.



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**Question 11: Of the patients treated with anticoagulation therapy for AF-related stroke prevention in the area covered by your CCG between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015, what percentage were treated with:**

- a.) A novel oral anticoagulant (NOAC)?**
- b.) Warfarin?**

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Groups prescribing data does not identify the indication for warfarin or a NOAC. Therefore, it is not possible to establish the percentage of patients prescribed either type of medication for AF-related stroke prevention.

**Question 12: Do your providers offer rate-control as the first-line strategy to patients with AF?**

**\*AF is associated with an increased heart rate, which can cause both immediate and long term health consequences. Rate control uses drugs approved by NICE or surgical interventions to reduce the ventricular heart rate, and thereby improve symptoms and reduce the risk of associated morbidity.**

Please see the response to question 2.