Indicators for NICE QOF menu

Indicator area: Atrial fibrillation
Indicator: NM164
Indicator to be replaced: Not applicable
Date: October 2018

Indicator NM164:

The contractor establishes and maintains a register of patients with atrial fibrillation, including patients with ‘AF resolved’.

Introduction
Atrial fibrillation (AF) is the most common sustained cardiac arrhythmia. In people who have had a stroke, concurrent AF is associated with a higher rate of mortality, greater disability, a longer stay in hospital and a lower rate of discharge home.

Stroke prevention with appropriate thromboprophylaxis is central to the management of AF.

There is currently an indicator in the 2018/19 QOF (AF001) on a register for people with AF:

The contractor establishes and maintains a register of patients with atrial fibrillation.

Rationale
Adderley et al (2018) found that people with resolved AF remain at higher risk of stroke or transient ischaemic attack (TIA) than people without AF and continue to benefit from anticoagulation therapy.

Under the current business rules for the QOF, people coded as having resolved AF are removed from the AF register. They are therefore also
excluded from the associated indicators intended to help prevent people with AF having a stroke or TIA. Adderley et al. (2018) found the proportion of patients with AF with any recorded AF resolved clinical code was 7.8%. The 2016/17 QOF data report approximately 965,000 people on the AF register, this suggests that around 75,000 have an AF resolved code – about 10 people per GP practice in England (75,000/7,500).

Source guidance and recommendations

This indicator is focussed on establishing a register of people therefore it is not underpinned by specific evidence based recommendations.

References