NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE indicator guidance

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# Indicator NM174

The percentage of patients with heart failure on the register, who had a review in the preceding 12 months, including an assessment of functional capacity (using the New York Heart Association classification) and a review of medication.

# Indicator type

General practice indicator suitable for use in the QOF.

# Introduction

Heart failure is a complex clinical syndrome of symptoms and signs that suggest the efficiency of the heart as a pump is impaired. It is caused by structural or functional abnormalities of the heart. [QOF data for 2017/18](https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/quality-and-outcomes-framework-achievement-prevalence-and-exceptions-data/2017-18) shows around 486,000 people in England are currently on a general practice heart failure register. Improvements in care have increased survival for people with ischaemic heart disease, and treatments for heart failure have become more effective. But the overall prevalence of heart failure is rising because of population ageing and increasing rates of obesity.

# Rationale

Regular review is associated with improvement in quality of life and a reduction in the need for urgent hospitalisation. NICE guideline NG106 recommends short monitoring intervals if the clinical condition or medication has changed and longer intervals for stable people with heart failure.

# Source guidance

[Chronic heart failure in adults](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng106/chapter/Recommendations) (2018) NICE guideline NG106, recommendations 1.7.1 and 1.7.3.

# Specification

Numerator: The number of patients in the denominator who had a review in the preceeding 12 months, including an assessment of functional capacity (using the New York Heart Association classification) and a review of medication.

Denominator: The number of patients on the heart failure register.

Calculation: (Numerator/denominator) \* 100.

Exclusions: None.

Minimum population: The indicator would be appropriate to assess performance at individual general practice level.

# Further information

This is NICE indicator guidance, which is part of the [NICE menu of indicators](https://www.nice.org.uk/Standards-and-Indicators/index). This document does not represent formal NICE guidance.