Indicator development programme

NICE indicator guidance

**Alcohol use: risk assessment for people with a long term condition**

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# Indicator NM180

The percentage of patients with one or more of the following conditions: CHD, atrial fibrillation, chronic heart failure, stroke or TIA, diabetes or dementia who have been screened for hazardous drinking using the FAST or AUDIT-C tool in the preceding 2 years.

## Indicator type

General practice indicator suitable for use in the Quality and Outcomes Framework.

## Rationale

Alcohol is a cause of significant public health burden but use is widespread amongst most groups of society. Alcohol is the leading cause of ill-health, early mortality and disability in those aged 15-49 years of age ([NHS Digital 2017](https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/statistics-on-alcohol/statistics-on-alcohol-england-2017)). Harmful drinking is associated with multiple physical and mental health problems. This indicator intends to identify those people with described morbidities who are at risk of hazardous alcohol consumption. This will help to better manage their conditions. The 2-year timeframe is presented as a pragmatic proposal for measurement purposes. Tools such as AUDIT-C and FAST can help to identify people that may not be alcohol dependent but would benefit from an reducing their alcohol consumption.

## Source guidance

[NICE’s guideline for alcohol-use disorders: prevention](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ph24) (2010) recommendation 9

[NICE’s guideline for atrial fibrillation: diagnosis and management](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/NG196) (2021) recommendations 1.2.2, 1.2.3 and 1.6.11

[NICE’s guideline on cardiovascular disease: risk assessment and reduction, including lipid modification](https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/statistics-on-alcohol/statistics-on-alcohol-england-2017) (2014, updated 2023) recommendations 1.1.17, 1.3.10 and 1.4.12

## Specification

Numerator: The number of patients in the denominator who have been screened for hazardous drinking using the FAST or AUDIT-C tool in the preceding 2 years.

Denominator: The number of patients with one or more of the following conditions: CHD, atrial fibrillation, chronic heart failure, stroke or TIA, diabetes or dementia.

Calculation: Numerator divided by the denominator, multiplied by 100.

Exclusions: People with an existing diagnosis of an alcohol related disease or disorder.

Personalised care adjustments or exception reporting should be considered to account for situations where the patient declines, does not attend or if the indicator is not appropriate.

Expected population size:

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

## Further information

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