NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE indicator guidance

Date first published on NICE menu: August 2014

Last update: November 2020

# Indicator NM81

The percentage of patients with atrial fibrillation in whom stroke risk has been assessed using the CHA2DS2-VASc score risk stratification scoring system in the preceding 12 months (excluding those patients with a previous CHADS2 or CHA2DS2-VASc score of 2 or more).

# Indicator type

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

# Rationale

This indicator aims to support the identification of people with atrial fibrillation who are at increased risk of stroke so that they may be offered anticoagulation drug therapy.

People with symptomatic or asymptomatic paroxysmal, persistent or permanent atrial fibrillation, atrial flutter and/or a continuing risk of arrhythmia recurrence after cardioversion back to sinus rhythm should have an assessment of their stroke risk using the CHA2DS2-VASc risk assessment tool.

The CHA2DS2-VASc system scores points up to a maximum of 9, for each of the following risk factors:

* Age: <65 (0 points), 65–74 (1 point), ≥75 (2 points)
* Gender: male (0 points), female (1 point)
* Congestive heart failure (1 point)
* Hypertension (1 point)
* Stroke, transient ischaemic attack (TIA) or thromboembolism (2 points)
* Vascular disease (1 point)
* Diabetes mellitus (1 point).

A score of 0 indicates low risk, a score of 1 indicates low-to-medium risk and a score of 2 or more indicates moderate-to-high risk. It also notes that aspirin monotherapy should not be offered solely for stroke prevention in these people.

# Source guidance

[Atrial fibrillation: diagnosis and management. NICE guideline 196](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/NG196) (2021), recommendation 1.2.1.

# Specification

Numerator: e.g. The number of patients in the denominator in whom stroke risk has been assessed using the CHA2DS2-VASc score risk stratification scoring system in the preceding 12 months.

Denominator: The number of patients with atrial fibrillation.

Calculation: (Numerator/denominator)\*100

Exclusions: Patients with a previous CHADS2 or CHA2DS2-VASc score of 2 or more

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.