

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

Primary Care Quality and Outcomes Framework Indicator Advisory Committee recommendations

Indicator area: Epilepsy

Recommended Indicator:

The percentage of women with epilepsy under the age of 50 who are taking antiepileptic drugs who have a record of information and counselling about contraception, conception and pregnancy in the previous 15 months

Background

The Primary Care Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) Indicator Advisory Committee (AC) met in June 2009 and July 2009 to consider information on the prioritisation of potential indicators for inclusion in the NICE menu for QOF. This included consideration of a briefing paper that provided a summary of the evidence on the clinical effectiveness of a potential indicator relating to epilepsy, cost effectiveness evidence and an Equality Impact Assessment. This report is taken from the full confirmed minutes of these meetings and presents the AC's considerations and recommendations.

QOF Indicator Advisory Committee recommendations

Wording of the proposed indicator presented to the June 2009 AC:

The percentage of women with epilepsy under the age of 55 who are taking antiepileptic drugs who have been given information and counselling about contraception, conception and pregnancy

Following consideration of the clinical effectiveness evidence presented in the briefing paper for epilepsy the AC agreed that there appears to be a strong evidence base for this indicator. The AC recommended that the indicator is amended to age 50, to include women likely to be of childbearing age (this is nearer the average age of women to enter the menopause) and that a frequency of 'past 15 months' is specified in line with other advice indicators.

The cost effectiveness information presented to the AC concluded that the cost of implementing the proposed indicator is relatively modest, but that the additional 'treatment' costs associated with the indicator are less easily defined. The AC acknowledged that it would be difficult to fully determine how implementation of the indicator might affect conception levels among women taking antiepileptic drugs and the resultant impact on the number of children born with major congenital malformations.

Following consideration of the Equality Impact Assessment carried out as part of the briefing paper, no equality issues were identified that would prevent the indicator from going forward for inclusion in the NICE menu for QOF.

QOF Indicator Advisory Committee final recommendation

The AC recommended that the indicator is amended to age 50, to include women likely to be of childbearing age (this is nearer the average age of women to enter the menopause) and that a frequency of 'past 15 months' is specified in line with other advice indicators. The AC recommended this indicator for inclusion on the NICE menu.