Quality and Outcomes Framework Programme

NICE cost impact statement

July 2010

Indicator area: Diabetes mellitus

Indicator NM12
The percentage of patients with diabetes with a record of testing of foot sensation using a 10 g monofilament or vibration (using biothesiometer or calibrated tuning fork), within the preceding 15 months

Introduction
This report provides a high level budget impact discussion for one indicator relating to diabetes mellitus piloted for the 2011/12 NICE menu of indicators for QOF. The intention is for this indicator to replace the 2009/10 QOF indicator DM10 which incentivises testing for foot complications and monitoring of foot problems in patients with diabetes through the recording of neuropathy testing. Foot complications such as peripheral vascular disease (the damage caused to large blood vessels supplying lower limbs) and neuropathy (damage/degeneration of the nerves) are common in patients with diabetes. Checks for vasculopathy and neuropathy should be carried out at an annual review and these are undertaken as part of standard care under QOF indicators DM9 and DM10.

Cost implication
It is assumed that the use of a 10g monofilament (using biothesiometer or calibrated tuning fork) is standard practice for testing of foot sensation in primary care and therefore this indicator would not carry any new equipment costs or require any additional attendances - foot testing would be carried out
opportunistically or as part of the established annual review processes for diabetes care. Awareness of the indicator may need to be raised and there may need to be some educational training for nurses, however it is reasonable to assume the cost of implementing testing of foot sensation using a 10 g monofilament or vibration would be minimal.

Conclusion

Checks for vasculopathy and neuropathy are already undertaken as part of standard care under QOF indicators DM9 and DM10 and therefore implementation of this indicator is not expected to result in significant costs. There may be some additional costs in educational training for nurses but these should be minimal.

Related QOF indicators

National level results for 2008/09 for the current QOF indicator (NHS Information Centre 2009)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current QOF indicator</th>
<th>Numerator</th>
<th>Denominator</th>
<th>Underlying achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DM9. The percentage of patients with diabetes with a record of the presence or absence of peripheral pulses in the previous 15 months</td>
<td>1,905,192</td>
<td>2,089,195</td>
<td>91.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>DM10. The percentage of patients with diabetes with a record of neuropathy testing in the previous 15 months</td>
<td>1,897,915</td>
<td>2,087,789</td>
<td>90.9%</td>
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References