

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

QUALITY AND OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK (QOF) INDICATOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Cost impact statement: Hypertension

QOF indicator area: Hypertension

Date: July 2012

Indicators

NM53: The percentage of patients under 80 years old with hypertension in whom the last recorded blood pressure (measured in the preceding 9 months) is 140/90 or less.

NM54: The percentage of patients aged 80 years and over with hypertension in whom the last recorded blood pressure (measured in the preceding 9 months) is 150/90 or less.

Introduction

This report covers 2 new indicators relating to hypertension. These indicators are part of the NICE menu of potential Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) indicators for 2013/14, following the recommendations of the independent QOF advisory committee in June 2012. The indicators have been piloted as part of the NICE QOF indicator development process.

This report considers the likely cost impact of incentivising the clinical interventions associated with the proposed indicators in terms of the number of additional interventions provided and the cost of each intervention. Costs to NHS commissioners are outlined where relevant, along with the cost of additional activity at general practices.

It is proposed that the above indicators would replace current QOF indicator BP05: 'The percentage of patients with hypertension in whom the last blood pressure (measured in the preceding 9 months) is 150/90 or less.'

The rationale for the current indicator, BP05, is to promote the primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease through satisfactory blood pressure control. This intermediate outcome can be achieved through lifestyle advice and the use of drug therapy.

The intent of the 2 new indicators is to align the current QOF BP05 indicator with the updated [NICE clinical guideline on hypertension](#), which recommends a target clinic blood pressure below 140/90 mmHg in patients under 80 with treated hypertension, and a clinic blood pressure below 150/90 mmHg in patients aged 80 and over with treated hypertension.

Cost implication

Number of people affected

The Health Survey for England 2010 indicates the prevalence of high blood pressure (defined as blood pressure above 140/90) in 2010 was 31.5% among men and 29.0% among women. The survey identifies the proportion of adults with untreated hypertension as 14.7% for men and 10.3% for women.

Current care

The current QOF indicator BP05 incentivises blood pressure management for **all** people with hypertension, and has a target blood pressure of 150/90 mmHg or less. The latest published QOF achievement data (2010/11) show that across all GP practices in England the level of achievement for BP05 was 79.3%.

The replacement of BP05 with the 2 proposed indicators would change the target blood pressure level for people under 80 to 140/90 mmHg or less. The target for people aged 80 and over would remain the same.

Proposed care

Proposed care to achieve lower blood pressure for people aged under 80 may include lifestyle modifications (based on advice) and prescriptions, with GP (and other healthcare professional) consultations. Proposed care for people aged 80 and over would remain unchanged.

The table below calculates that around 12.5% of the population aged between 18 and 80 have untreated hypertension. If we assume that the impact of the indicator is to reduce untreated hypertension to 10% of the population and an increase in treatment is a GP consultation and medication, the annual cost would be calculated at £20 million.

The cost is set out below in table 1.

Table 1 Estimated cost of implementing indicator NM53

	Men	Women	Total
People aged between 18 and 79	20,569,188	22,410,785	42,979,973
% with blood pressure over 140/90 mmHg	31.5%	29.0%	30.2%
People with blood pressure over 140/90 mmHg	6,479,294	6,499,128	12,978,422
% untreated	14.7%	10.3%	12.5%
People with blood pressure over 140/90 mmHg untreated	952,456	669,410	1,621,866
Assume 10% remain untreated			10%
Number of people remaining untreated			1,297,842
Additional people to be treated			324,024
Cost of antihypertensive drugs per year after diagnosis			£32.86
Cost of monitoring appointment with GP			£28.00
Total cost of each treatment			£60.86
Total cost			£19,720,113

Pharmaceutical treatment to lower blood pressure is highly cost effective because of the low cost antihypertensive drugs and the high cost of health outcomes that they can avert. Based on the cost of an emergency admission for cardiac arrest (£2,247), if 8,776 cardiac arrests are avoided the cost impact of this indicator is neutral. The figure of 8,776 cardiac arrests is 2.7% of the additional people treated.

Table 2 Reduction in cardiac arrest for indicator to be cost neutral

Number of cardiac arrests avoided	8,776
Cost of emergency admission for cardiac arrest	£2,247
Total costs avoided	19,712,672

For indicator NM54 there is no change, so no cost impact is anticipated.

Resource impact

The application of QOF indicators NM53 and NM54 is estimated to be £19.7 million. However the reduction in future high-cost outcome events for the additional population being treated is anticipated to more than cover this cost.

Sensitivity analysis

If the percentage of people with untreated hypertension is varied between 12.5% and 7.5%, the estimated costs vary from zero to £43 million.

Conclusions

The estimated initial cost impact of indicator NM53 is £19.7million and indicator NM54 is zero. It is anticipated this cost should be covered by a reduction in high cost outcome events.

Related QOF indicators

Current QOF indicator	Numerator	Denominator	Underlying achievement
BP04: The percentage of patients with hypertension in whom there is a record of the blood pressure in the preceding 9 months.	6,752,900	7,373,659	91.6%
BP05: The percentage of patients with hypertension in whom the last blood pressure (measured in the preceding 9 months) is 150/90 or less.	5,685,991	7,169,850	79.3%
DM12: The percentage of patients with diabetes in whom the last blood pressure is 145/85 or less. [This indicator was retired at the start of 2011/12]	1,874,045	2,306,863	81.2%
DM31: The percentage of patients with diabetes in whom the last blood pressure is 140/80 or less.	New indicator in 2011/12 – no data yet available		
CKD03: The percentage of patients on the CKD register in whom the last blood pressure reading, measured in the preceding 15 months, is 140/85 or less.	1,282,712	1,728,333	74.2%

References

Health and Social Care Information Centre (2011) [QOF 2010/11 data](#) [online].

University of Birmingham and University of York Health Economics Consortium Health (NICE External Contractor), Development feedback report on piloted indicators, 2012

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