QOF indicator area: Dementia

Output: Draft indicator guidance for QOF

Date: August 2013

Indicator for NICE menu (indicator ID: NM72)
The percentage of patients with dementia (diagnosed on or after 1 April 2014) with a record of FBC, calcium, glucose, renal and liver function, thyroid function tests, serum vitamin B_{12} and folate levels recorded up to 12 months before entering on to the register

Indicator to be replaced
The new indicator replaces the 2013/14 QOF indicator:

The percentage of patients with a new diagnosis of dementia recorded in the preceding 1 April to 31 March with a record of FBC, calcium, glucose, renal and liver function, thyroid function tests, serum vitamin B12 and folate levels recorded between 6 months before or after entering on to the register.

Rationale
The timeframe for this indicator has been amended to be consistent with a new dementia indicator NM65 (attendance at a memory assessment service).

There is no universal consensus on the appropriate diagnostic tests to be undertaken in people with suspected dementia. However, a review of 14 guidelines and consensus statements found considerable similarity in recommendations (Beck et al. 2000). The main reason for undertaking investigations in a person with suspected dementia is to exclude a potentially reversible or modifying cause for the dementia and to help exclude other
diagnoses (such as delirium). Reversible or modifying causes include metabolic and endocrine abnormalities (for example, vitamin B$_{12}$ and folate deficiency, hypothyroidism, diabetes and disorders of calcium metabolism).

The NICE clinical guideline on dementia (NICE clinical guideline 42) states that a basic dementia screen should be performed at the time of presentation, usually within primary care. It should include:

- routine haematology
- biochemistry tests (including electrolytes, calcium, glucose, and renal and liver function)
- thyroid function tests
- serum vitamin B$_{12}$ and folate levels.

**Reporting and verification**

See indicator wording for requirement criteria.

For the purpose of this indicator, if a test for HbA$_{1c}$ has been carried out within the timeframe permitted by this indicator, then a test for glucose would not be required. All tests are required to be carried out (with the exception of glucose in the above scenario) to meet the requirements of this indicator. If the test is declined by the patient, then the patient may be exception reported.

**References**


**Further information**

This is NICE draft indicator guidance for QOF, which is part of the NICE menu of indicators. The final QOF indicator guidance will be agreed through the negotiation process by NHS Employers and the British Medical Association General Practitioners Committee.
This document does not represent formal NICE guidance. The NICE menu of indicators for QOF is available online at

www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/qof/indicators.jsp