



Lipids disorders: FH assessment (30 years and over)

NICE indicator

Published: 31 July 2019

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Indicator

The percentage of people aged 30 years and older with a total cholesterol concentration greater than 9.0 mmol/l that are assessed against the Simon Broome or Dutch Lipid Clinic Network (DLCN) criteria.

Indicator type

General practice indicator for use outside the QOF. Development and testing highlighted that there would likely be less than 20 new eligible patients per GP practice per year.

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To find out how to use indicators and how we develop them, see our [NICE indicator process guide](#).

Introduction

In some people high total cholesterol levels are caused by an inherited gene defect: familial hypercholesterolemia (FH). A raised cholesterol concentration is present from birth and may lead to early development of atherosclerotic disease.

Left untreated, FH can lead to premature coronary heart disease. However, with appropriate lipid-lowering treatment, care is highly effective and life expectancy can return to normal ([Qureshi et al. 2016](#))

The prevalence of heterozygous FH in the UK population is estimated to be 1 in 250. Currently it is estimated that up to 80% of people with FH are undiagnosed and therefore untreated.

Diagnosis is based on the Simon Broome or DLCN criteria which includes information on family history, total and LDL cholesterol concentrations, clinical signs such as tendon xanthomata and DNA testing.

Rationale

This indicator is intended to increase identification of those people 30 years and older with undiagnosed FH. Considering a diagnosis of FH in primary care will result in greater identification and support cascade testing of relatives. It will lead to more treatment of high cholesterol and the prevention of CHD amongst people with FH.

Source guidance

Familial hypercholesterolaemia: identification and management. NICE guideline CG71 (2008, updated 2019), section 1.1

Specification

Numerator: The number of people in the denominator who are assessed against the Simon Broome or DLCN criteria.

Denominator: The number of people aged 30 years and older, with a total cholesterol concentration greater than 9.0 mmol/l.

Calculation: (Numerator/denominator) * 100.

Exclusions: People previously assessed against the Simon Broome or DLCN criteria or referred for specialist assessment.

Minimum population: The indicator would not be appropriate to assess performance at individual general practice level. The indicator may be appropriate to assess performance of collaborations or networks of GP practices.

ISBN: 978-1-4731-5790-3