

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

Primary Care Quality and Outcomes Framework Indicator Advisory Committee recommendations

Indicator area: Mental health

Recommended Indicator:

The percentage of patients on lithium therapy with a record of lithium levels in the therapeutic range within the previous 4 months

Background

The Primary Care Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) Indicator Advisory Committee (AC) met in June 2010 to consider the results of a review of a number QOF indicators. This report is taken from the full unconfirmed minutes of this two day meeting and presents the AC's considerations and recommendations following a review of the 2009/10 QOF indicator MH5.

QOF Indicator Advisory Committee recommendations

Wording of the reviewed indicator presented to the June 2010 AC:

MH 5: The percentage of patients on lithium therapy with a record of lithium levels in the therapeutic range within the previous 6 months

The Committee was presented with the conclusions of the expert review of this indicator.

The Committee considered changing the review interval for indicator MH5 from every 6 months to every 3 months taking into consideration

recommendations from the NICE guideline on Bipolar Disorder which recommends monitoring serum lithium levels every 3 months.

The Committee agreed the interval should be reduced to be closer in line with NICE guidance. However, it did not agree that the interval should be reduced to every 3 months at this time, but the indicator interval should be reduced to 4 months.

The Committee also asked if the indicator could be changed so that measurement of lithium levels at 4 month intervals throughout the year could be incentivised. The Expert Technical Advisor (ETA) advised that this is currently technically very difficult but could be explored at a later date with the NHS IC.

QOF Indicator Advisory Committee final recommendation

The Committee recommended that the time interval for MH5 should be changed to previous 4 months.

The Committee recommended that the technical feasibility of an indicator which incentivises measurement of serum lithium levels every four months throughout the year should be explored by the NHS IC with support from the ETA.