



STROKE PREVENTION

Preventing strokes has been a flagship programme for the Innovation Agency since its inception and we are very proud of the impact of our work, in particular identifying unknown cases of atrial fibrillation.



pulses tested



mobile ECG devices distributed



volunteer AF Ambassadors recruited



strokes prevented



atrial fibrillation cases identified



of AF patients anti-coagulated
in 8 of our 19 CCG areas

2018-2019 STROKE PREVENTION STATS

"I am passionate about our work in preventing strokes which continues to have a big impact. We have focused on using innovations to detect atrial fibrillation and on improving treatments by collaborating with colleagues in primary care – saving lives and avoiding serious illnesses."

Dr Liz Mear
Chief Executive



500 strokes prevented over 5 years

GP COLLABORATIVE IMPROVES CARE FOR PATIENTS WITH AF

An improvement programme delivered by the Innovation Agency led to the better management of atrial fibrillation (AF) in GP practices.

The AF Collaborative resulted in 1,066 patients starting on anticoagulation treatment while more than 800 were added to AF registers.

Anticoagulation of high risk patients reduces stroke risk by two-thirds. In the North West Coast there are an estimated 15,429 undiagnosed cases of AF and 13,120 patients diagnosed with high risk AF who are not treated with anticoagulation therapy.

In total, 68 GP practices were recruited to the AF Collaborative, receiving a package of support and training and given mobile ECG devices to test pulses. Staff then set out to find more people with AF and to improve anticoagulation rates for existing AF patients.

It is estimated the work will prevent a potential 160 strokes over five years.

Dr Quincy Chuka at Holes Lane Medical Centre in Warrington said: "The Collaborative challenges the way we deliver care for our patients and encourages you to think differently.

"This is a high impact, sustainable, evidence-based project with improvement of care for patients with AF at its core. It is about getting the basics right, empowering primary care and translating effectiveness of quality improvement to patients' care."

The success of the first AF Collaborative led to the Innovation Agency winning a number of awards including the AF Association's Healthcare Pioneers Award for Best Practice in AF and to be shortlisted in the Patient Safety Awards 2019.

Work is underway on a second AF Collaborative and the Innovation Agency is working with 50 practices across Liverpool, St Helens and Morecambe Bay. Both Collaboratives have received support from Bayer, the BMS-Pfizer Alliance and Daiichi Sankyo as part of joint working agreements and Medical Education Grants.



Dr Quincy Chuka



Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service
Home Safety Check

MORE FIREFIGHTERS HELP TO PREVENT STROKES

More vulnerable residents are having their pulses tested by firefighters as a trail blazing partnership spreads in our region.

The first fire crews to take on board the task of testing pulses during their Safe and Well visits were in Halton, supported by Halton CCG and Halton Borough Council's Public Health team, with portable devices provided by the Innovation Agency.

The idea has now been adopted by four more CCGs in Cheshire and in parts of Lancashire. In the past 12 months, fire crews have tested 3,672 pulses and signposted 165 people with possible atrial fibrillation – an irregular heartbeat - to their GPs for further tests.

From April 2019, community fire safety officers in Chorley, Bamber Bridge and Leyland are testing pulses during Home Safety Checks for people aged over 65, with the target of preventing around 300 AF-related strokes. The aim is to spread the approach across Lancashire.

Jane Williams, Prevention Support Manager at Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "We recognise that our home visits to provide fire safety advice and to fit smoke alarms enable us with the help of the partner agencies we work closely with to deliver a lot more to enhance the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable people."

HOME HEALTH TECH HELPS PATIENTS AVOID STROKES

Patients with AF in East Lancashire are monitoring and managing themselves at home and reducing their chances of having a stroke, thanks to digital technology.

The Innovation Agency secured funding to work with East Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen CCG areas where there are around 6,300 people being treated for AF, to improve the monitoring of Warfarin in primary and secondary care.

Patients who are prescribed Warfarin typically have to attend medical clinics on a regular basis for blood tests to determine their correct dosage.

Now they can test themselves at home and send in their results via a bluetooth mobile app, secure web portal or automated telephone call to receive their dosage information saving them time and money attending clinic appointments.

Research has shown that self-testing can improve the quality of therapy and patient wellbeing, reduce the risk of blood clotting and therefore cut risk of stroke. It also reduces pressure on the NHS, keeping care closer to home and reducing clinic footfall.

Since introducing the home-testing in East Lancashire, there has been a real improvement in therapeutic range for patients using the technology.

"We have demonstrated that self-monitoring improves outcomes and is cost effective. Patients have expressed that they are happy and engaged with self-monitoring whilst staff are confident the service achieves good quality care."

Dr Julia Reynolds
Head of Programmes

Dr Julia Reynolds, Head of Programmes at the Innovation Agency, said: "We have demonstrated that self-monitoring improves outcomes and is cost effective. Patients have expressed that they are happy and engaged with self-monitoring whilst staff are confident the service achieves good quality care."

A similar service is now being rolled out in Chorley and South Ribble.

Inhealthcare is supplying its technology for the service, which is being delivered by staff from East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust. 4S DAWN provides the anticoagulation software and Roche INRange devices and LumeriaDX provide the links to the GP systems.

Credit: Inhealthcare/
Bruce Rollinson

