

Cheshire and Merseyside Blood Pressure Annual Report 2018

Knowsley Council Case Study

Audit to support quality improvement in general practice

In the early part of 2018, all 25 Knowsley Practices participated in an audit against [NICE high blood pressure quality standards](#). Practices were able to receive payment for having completed the audit using a CCG provided template. Practices were required to produce a clear action plan for work to be undertaken on areas for development and a re-audit to be completed by the end of 2018. Each practice identified their areas for improvement.

The aspects of NICE recommendations that practices would aim to improve as a result of learning from the audit were:

1. Increase use of Ambulatory BP Monitoring in the diagnosis of hypertension
2. Increase routine urinalysis after diagnosis of hypertension to check target organ damage or proteinuria
3. Routinely check fundi after diagnosis of hypertension
4. Undertake ECG where this is indicated
5. Ensure all patients have an assessment of Target Organ Damage
6. Increase the assessment of cardiovascular risk e.g. QRISK
7. Improve the quality of the medical record – such that details of advice given about diet and exercise were recorded
8. Undertake the opportunity to refer to local lifestyle support services

The majority of practices have shared their findings, a re-refresh of the NICE Guideline standards, and proposed improvements at the monthly practice clinical meetings. This may include promotion and adherence to the local hypertension pathway, ensuring locums are aware of the pathway and standards, and use of a clinical template for all new and on-going hypertension diagnoses.