There has been significant improvement in the detection of AF and perfection of treatment across Wessex.

Detection has increased from 79% to 82%, and 83% of people requiring anticoagulation were prescribed it in 17/18 compared to 81% in 16/17.

Detection rates in every CCG area have increased across Wessex with the overall detection rate rising from 79% to 82%, exceeding our NHS England target of 81% set for March 2019 and nearing the 2020 target of 85%*

AF detection rate, as a result of AliveCor Mobile ECG at 9%

This is comparably high against the national average of 6%**

The number of people taking anticoagulation has increased

In Wessex we increased from 81% in 16/17 to 83% in 17/18 (range across CCGs 79-88%) against a national Target of 84% which the AHSN network met in November 2018*

Around 40 AliveCor training events across Wessex, with over 140 attendees helped to spread the availability of the mobile ECG device
Atrial Fibrillation (AF)

What was delivered 2018-19?

Detect

- The introduction of 350 AliveCor mobile ECG devices across the Wessex area, which will help close the gap of undetected AF
- In Wessex, we detected an additional 3287 people with AF between 16/17 and 17/18

Protect

- The number of people taking anticoagulation has increased. In Wessex, we increased from 81% in 16/17 to 83% in 17/18. Contributing to the achievement of the National Programme target of 84% being met in November 2018
- We were awarded an AHSN Network/Pfizer grant to support prescribers in primary care to optimise anticoagulation treatment, through a programme of education, training and support. This is delivering a project in Dorset CCG
- The Isle of Wight and Portsmouth CCGs have been awarded a NHSE grant to support a programme of virtual clinics designed to optimise anticoagulant use

Perfect

- Starting Anticoagulation with Jack: This award-winning campaign video has been viewed more than 30k times and is being spread nationally by the AHSN Network and within many local care providers
- Improved patient consultations and community pharmacy referral: there has been a 20% increase in community pharmacy New Medicines Service consultations for Anticoagulation
- The New Medicines Service is known to increase medication adherence by 10%

Events and awards 2018-19:

- Around 40 AliveCor training events across Wessex, with over 140 attendees helped to spread the availability of the mobile ECG device
- Training on anticoagulation initiation & optimisation over several seminar sessions for >200 nurses, pharmacists, junior doctors, GPs, laboratory scientists and other allied healthcare professionals

Across Wessex, initiatives being delivered by partners to improve identification and management of patients with AF include:

- Direct training/buddying/mentoring for 3 pharmacists with a specialist interest in anticoagulation supervision
- Weekday advice & guidance for GPs through eRS on anticoagulation with turnaround <3 days
- Regional consultant advice line 24/7 for complex anticoagulation concerns
- Collaboration between Anticoagulant Specialist Services to deliver inreach/telephone outreach on working days to patients requiring initiation of or adjustments to anticoagulation
- Achievement of TTR for warfarin consistent at 73% through close supervision & monitoring (includes patients with difficult control who are unable to switch to a DOAC due to indication for anticoagulation/interacting medications)
- Collaboration with ED to review emergency pathway for head injury on anticoagulation to ensure safe ongoing individualised management
Plans for 2019-20:

- Dorset Anticoagulation Optimisation and Education Project will run until Oct 2020 to optimise anticoagulation for patients most at risk of stroke
- IOW and Portsmouth CCG virtual clinic implementation to ensure that those patients diagnosed with AF are in receipt of most appropriate treatment. Designed to reduce rates of stroke
- Development of a Webinar/Podcast Programme, aligned to the National AHSN AF Programme, designed to spread learning from current projects and continue to provide education to all those involved in AF
- Supporting and targeted communications designed to continue to encourage AF detection rates across Wessex through use of AliveCor

“Patients seemed very happy to engage with the AliveCor. I think as it is quite visual they liked being able to see what was going on. They also liked the idea of being screened as many already knew that a diagnosis of AF if untreated would increase their risk of stroke.”

Katherine Cordingly
Partner GP
Lordshill Health Centre
Wessex Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) is one of 15 AHSNs set up by NHS England in 2013 and relicensed from April 2018 to operate as the key innovation arm of the NHS.

At Wessex AHSN we improve people’s health, achieve excellence in healthcare and boost transformation and growth in our region’s life sciences and healthcare sector.

We connect academics, NHS, local authorities, industry and citizens to bring fresh energy to old problems, inspired thinking to new ones and to spread innovation and best practice across health and social care.

10% of the workforce in Wessex is employed in the health economy.

Wessex boasts over 250 life science companies in medtech, medbiotech, industrial biotech and pharma.

The region’s life sciences industry employs 9,000 and has a turnover of £2.5 billion.

The region’s population of 3 million is served by 10 CCGs, 9 local authorities, 11 NHS Trusts and 5 universities.

Want to find out more?

TheAHSNNetwork

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