

Improving anticoagulation in patients with atrial fibrillation

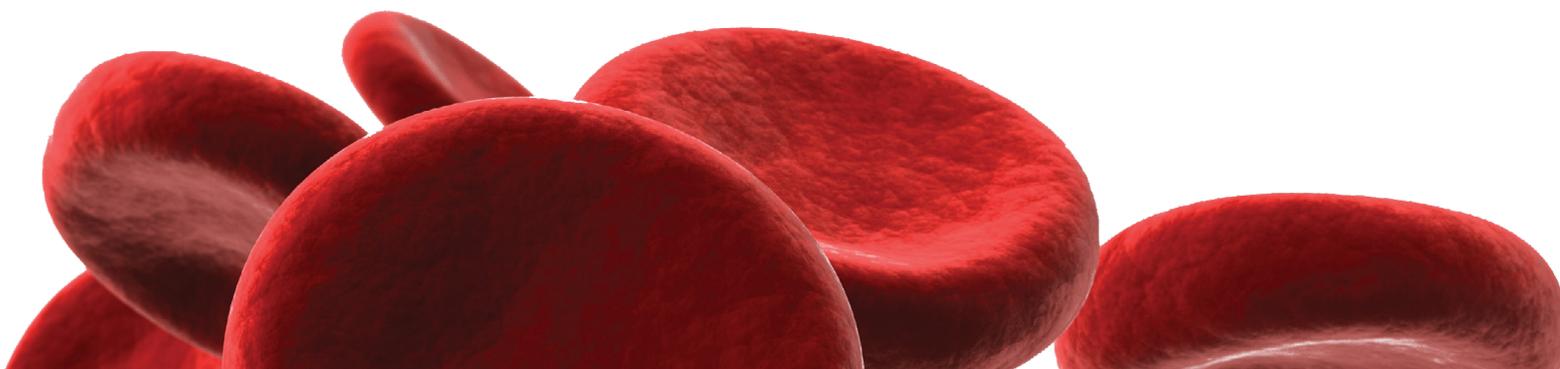
West Hampshire CCG achieves reduction in strokes using the GRASP-AF audit tool*. The GRASP-AF audit tool is developed by PRIMIS and delivered in conjunction with NHS England

* Supported by a Medical and Educational Goods and Services grant from Boehringer Ingelheim

“The thought that there are 16 people wandering about West Hampshire who haven't had a stroke because of this project is really impressive... I can't think of anything I've done in my career that's been more impactful than this project.”

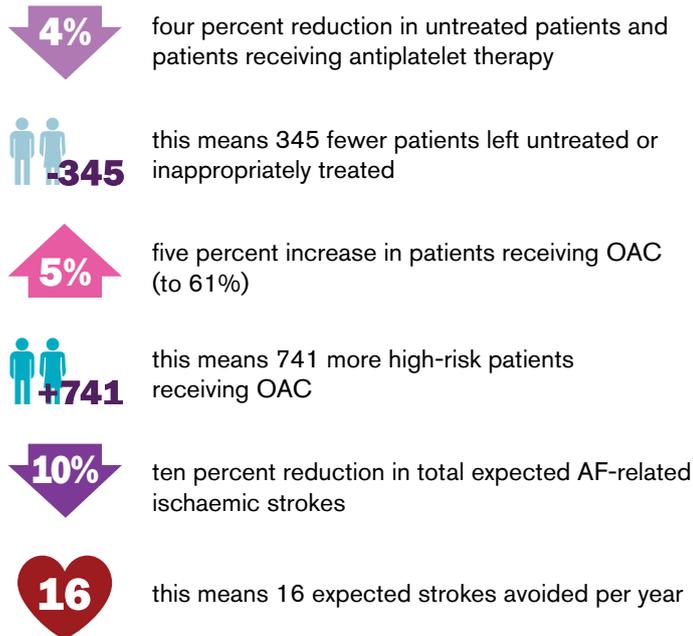
Neil Hardy

Associate Director - Medicines Management
West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group



Results

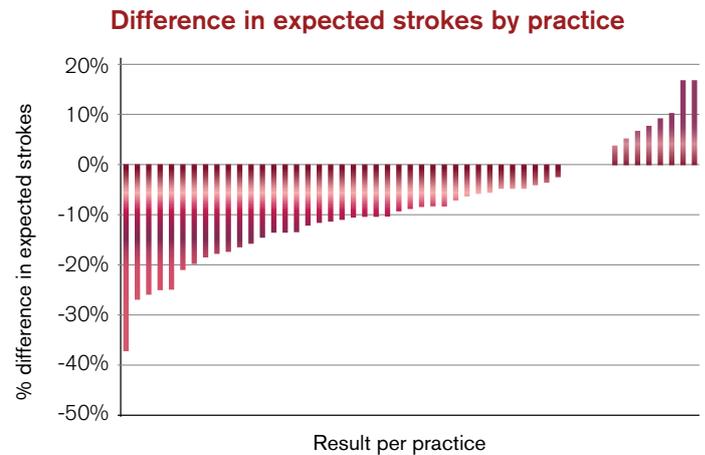
Early indications suggest the project was successful, with improvements in a number of key measures over a six-month period (September 2014 to March 2015):



Results were also generally positive at practice level, with 39 out of the 51 practices (76%) achieving a reduction in the expected number of strokes per annum. In fact, 23 of these practices reported >10% reduction in the expected number of strokes.

In the practices that achieved reductions, staff found the tool useful and highly impactful in their daily work. In particular, the support that both the Medicines Management team and Boehringer Ingelheim provided was critical to its success, ensuring that stakeholders were engaged and communication was widespread.

However, whilst early success has been achieved in the majority of practices, four practices reported no difference in the number of expected strokes and twelve reported an increase. This highlights the need for continued engagement with the initiative at a practice level, as well as ongoing focus on medicines optimisation.



Next steps

West Hampshire CCG is continuing to work with the GRASP-AF audit tool, and practices will re-run the audit on a regular basis to support ongoing improvements in OAC management. The numbers of actual strokes will also be monitored. It is hoped that the benefits in expected stroke reduction shown in the first six months will continue to accrue, leading to increasing numbers of strokes avoided.

Phase II of the effort to reduce strokes in West Hampshire is now also in progress, following a similar format to Phase I but using PRIMIS' Warfarin Patient Safety audit tool to focus on warfarin patients with poor time in therapeutic range. Results from this stage of the project are expected in 2016.

About the GRASP-AF audit tool

GRASP-AF is part of the GRASP audit tools delivered in partnership with NHS England.

GRASP-AF is a free, easy-to-use tool that assists GP practices to interrogate their clinical data enabling them to improve the management and care of patients with AF and to reduce their risk of stroke through appropriate intervention with anticoagulation. The tool also assists with case finding activity, helping practices to establish more accurate prevalence rates within the practice population.

Find out more about the GRASP-AF audit tool

Details and documentation are available online at www.nottingham.ac.uk/primis/grasp-af

How to obtain the GRASP-AF audit tool

Use of GRASP-AF is FREE to practices in England registered with the PRIMIS Hub online membership service*.

Basic membership is FREE of charge and includes access to all three audit tools within the GRASP suite, plus both CHART and CHART Online software tools.

Sign up for FREE basic PRIMIS Hub membership at:

www.nottingham.ac.uk/primis/joinus

* Practices outside England can obtain the GRASP-AF audit tool: please contact PRIMIS in this instance, by email at: enquiries@primis.nottingham.ac.uk

References

1. Hart, R.G., L.A. Pearce, and M.I. Aguilar, Meta-analysis: Antithrombotic Therapy to Prevent Stroke in Patients Who Have Nonvalvular Atrial Fibrillation. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 2007. 146(12): p. 857-867.
2. Mant, J., et al., Warfarin versus aspirin for stroke prevention in an elderly community population with atrial fibrillation (the Birmingham Atrial Fibrillation Treatment of the Aged Study, BAFTA): a randomised controlled trial. *The Lancet*. 370(9586): p. 493-503.
3. AFA Association, Grasp the initiative: action plan. 2014.