

Treatment of Atrial Fibrillation QSD on 7 May 2019

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials and press articles, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate:

Lord Black of Brentwood to ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made towards Public Health England's target to increase the proportion of known atrial fibrillation patients who are offered and started on appropriate treatment to 89 percent by 2021.

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

Key Information

- NHS England, '[Overview: Atrial Fibrillation](#)' and '[Treatment: Atrial Fibrillation](#)', 24 April 2018

Information about the symptoms, causes and treatments of atrial fibrillation (AF), a heart condition that causes an irregular and often abnormally fast heart rate.

- Public Health England, '[Local Health and Care Planning: Menu of Preventative Interventions](#)', November 2016, pp 29–33

Paper published by Public Health England in 2016, setting out a menu of evidence-based preventative public health interventions to improve the health of the population and reduce health and care service demand in the short to medium term. Extract covers secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease (CVD), including an aim to increase the proportion of known AF patients who are offered and started on appropriate treatment from 74 percent to 89 percent in the next five years.

- Public Health England and NHS England, '[Ambitions Set to Address Major Causes of Cardiovascular Disease](#)', 14 February 2019

Press release announcing a new set of 'national ambitions' to improve the detection and treatment of atrial fibrillation and other causes of cardiovascular disease, backed by a coalition of over 40 organisations, including Public Health England and NHS England.

- Public Health England, '[Health Matters: Preventing Cardiovascular Disease](#)', 14 February 2019

Full text of the 'national ambitions' on preventing cardiovascular disease. This notes that in 2016, Public Health England communicated an ambition to increase optimal management of people with AF from 74 percent to 89 percent by 2021, and that 84 percent was achieved in 2017 to 2018. In light of this

progress, Public Health England reports that there is clinical consensus that the ambition for optimally managing AF should now be 90 percent by 2021.

Parliamentary Debate, Statements and Questions

- House of Lords, '[Written Question: Atrial Fibrillation](#)', 14 March 2018, HL5938
- [Oral Question on 'Health: Atrial Fibrillation and Stroke'](#), HL Hansard, 12 December 2017, cols 1487–90
- [Letter from Lord O'Shaughnessy to Baroness Jolly 'Regarding an Issue Raised During an Oral Question on Atrial Fibrillation and Stroke'](#), 20 December 2017, DEP2017-0821
- [Letter from Lord O'Shaughnessy to Baroness Finlay of Llandaff 'Regarding an Issue Raised During an Oral Question on Atrial Fibrillation and Stroke'](#), 20 December 2017, DEP2017-0823

Press Articles and Comment

- All-Party Parliamentary Group on Atrial Fibrillation, [Addressing the Patient Identification Gap in Atrial Fibrillation \(AF\)](#), 21 November 2018
- Siobhan Chan, '[New Ambitions for Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Will 'Prevent Thousands of Heart Events'](#)', British Heart Foundation, 26 February 2019
- Matt Kearney, '[The Long Term Plan is a Game Changer](#)', NHS England blog, 14 January 2019

Further Information

- Public Health England, '[Atrial Fibrillation Prevalence Estimates for Local Populations](#)', last updated 14 September 2017
- National Institute for Health Care and Excellence, '[Atrial Fibrillation—Scenario: Reviewing Established AF](#)', February 2018
- Health Policy Partnership, [White Paper on Inequalities and Unmet Needs in the Detection of Atrial Fibrillation \(AF\) and Use of Therapies to Prevent AF-Related Stroke in Europe](#), December 2018

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