Atrial Fibrillation (AF) Case Finding
Overview:

There are about 1.2 million people with AF in the UK. AF often goes undiagnosed. It is estimated there could be another half a million people in the UK with undiagnosed AF. Without case finding there is a concern many patients, with AF, will remain undetected, and not coagulated, until they suffer a preventable stroke.

Oberoi Consulting supported the Westcliffe Medical Group to improve the early identification and management of patients with AF.

Objectives

- Measure the approach to support early detection of AF in the over 65’s
- Monitor whether a prompt-based system supports increased and effective detection of AF and subsequent AF-stroke management
- Track AF prevalence rates as a result of the intervention
- Anti-coagulate newly diagnosed AF patients in line with the NICE guidance CG180
- Audit and benchmark the data and findings across the group

Reference:
Solution

Working closely with the clinical team, Oberoi Consulting developed a GP clinical system protocol which alerted the user to conduct a pulse check, or use the Kardia AliveCor® mobile ECG device supplied by Oberoi Consulting.

The prompt was linked to a data-entry template to capture the outcome of the intervention.

The data was periodically audited, and the results relayed to the group.

The project was launched through an educational session for 50 clinicians from the Westcliffe Medical Group.

Results

6 months post baseline:

• At baseline, a total of 4,124 patients over 65 were identified as being “eligible” for AF case finding.

• The number of patients screened for AF over the 6 months was 1,538 (37%).

• AF Prevalence increased from 1.67% to 1.79% for the group.

Outcomes

63 new AF diagnoses

41 of the 63 new cases (65%) were diagnosed following prompted pro-active case finding

38 of the 41 new AF patients (93%) were anti-coagulated