

Atrial Fibrillation Screen, Management And Guideline Recommended Therapy

AF SMART Study



Led by Professor Ben Freedman, Heart Research Institute, Charles Perkins Centre, University of Sydney

****We are looking to recruit 10 general practices in rural NSW in 2018****

Background: atrial fibrillation (AF) and stroke

- AF is the most common arrhythmia, and is commonly asymptomatic in older people
- AF causes one third of all stroke – mostly preventable, if it can be detected and treated with oral anticoagulants for those with additional stroke risk factors

What is involved?

- Practice nurses to offer AF screening to eligible patients ≥ 65 yrs during flu vaccination, shingles vaccination or chronic care consultations (written consent NOT required)
- GPs to offer AF screening to eligible patients ≥ 65 yrs during consultations
- Patients will hold a Kardia (formerly AliveCor) smartphone device to record a single-lead ECG for 30 seconds (iECG). Automated iECG interpretation available immediately
- The iECG PDF file is sent to a secure website and can be downloaded and filed in the patient's medical record
- Electronic decision support for management of patients with AF available through HealthTracker app in Topbar (Pen CS) which is provided for the study. HealthTracker was developed by the George Institute and interfaces seamlessly with Medical Director/Best Practice to offer quick and clear evidence-based recommendations about AF management
- Study period of 3-4 months

Benefits for your clinic

- Participating clinics receive:
 - 3 smartphones, iECG devices and all software for use during the study
 - \$1000 + GST to cover setup costs and practice nurse training
 - Payment of \$1000+GST per 100 patients screened for the first 400 patients screened
- Take part in cutting-edge healthcare research to screen for, and treat, AF in your practice
- GPs: up to 40 Category 1 points for Quality Improvement (QI) clinical audit activities
- Nurses: APNA accredited training worth 1.5 CPD points

Practical points & IT requirements

- The iECG is free for patients (although usual consultation fees apply)
- We will supply up to 3 smartphones and Kardia mobile devices for the duration of the study
- We will provide onsite staff training at your clinic
- De-identified data collected monthly using the Pen clinical audit tool (CAT). No paper consent required
- Practices must have TopBar and CAT installed. Licences are usually provided by PHNs
- Wi-Fi is required
- Practices must be running Best Practice or Medical Director

References for our completed pilot studies in general practice

Orchard J, Freedman B, Lowres N, et al. iPhone ECG screening by practice nurses and receptionists for atrial fibrillation in general practice: the GP-SEARCH qualitative pilot study. *Aust Fam Physician*. 2014; 43: 315-9. Awarded the RACGP/MDA National Best General Practice Research Article in the AFP Journal Award 2015

Orchard J, Lowres N, Freedman B, et al. Screening for atrial fibrillation during influenza vaccinations by primary care nurses using a smartphone electrocardiograph (iECG): A feasibility study. *Eur J Prev Cardiol*. 2016; 23: 13-20. Paper published on fast track and study presented in Young Investigator Award Final at eCardiology eHealth, Berlin 2016

Contact us

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