



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

NHS Health Check content review form

Please read the guidance notes before completing this form. Please only complete the contact details and section 1 and return the form to the ESCAP secretariat at nhshealthchecks.mailbox@phe.gov.uk by **31 March 2017**.

Contact details

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Organisation	QMUL	Date	5/1/2017

Section 1

1. Please tick the categories that apply to your proposal.
<input type="checkbox"/> It involves amending the eligible population.
<input type="checkbox"/> It involves amending an existing component of the risk assessment.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It involves introducing a new component to the risk assessment.
2. Please provide a short summary describing your proposed change [max 200 words]
<p><i>[Please be sure to clearly state what your change or addition is e.g. to introduce a lung function test]</i></p> <p>For correct blood pressure measurement the pulse should be checked that it is regular or irregular (NICE guideline recommendation). This also has the useful attribute of potentially detecting atrial fibrillation in 1 in 10 people with an 'irregular' pulse.</p> <p>Such case finding improves measurement of blood pressure AND may detect AF in older people [Hobbs SAFE trial].</p>
3. Please state which strategic health priority in the NHS outcome framework or the public health outcome framework the proposed change supports [max 200 words]

[Please identify up to three priorities]

Stroke prevention

4. Please identify which of the programmes objectives the proposed change supports [please tick]

To promote and improve the early identification and management of the individual behavioural and physiological risk factors for vascular disease and the other conditions associated with those risk factors.

- ☐ To support individuals to effectively manage and reduce behavioural risks and associated conditions through information, behavioural and evidence based clinical interventions.
- ☐ To help reduce inequalities in the distribution and burden of behavioural risks, related conditions and multiple morbidities.
- ☐ To promote and support appropriate operational research and evaluation to optimise programme delivery and impact, nationally and locally.

5. How will the proposed change support the(se) objective(s)?

It detects AF for which anticoagulation reduces stroke

6. What is the evidence for the clinical effectiveness of the proposed change?

Robust

7. What is the evidence of cost effectiveness of the proposed change?

Robust

8. Please provide an outline of how this would change current practice

i.e. what would frontline professionals delivering the NHS Health Check need to do that isn't already a part of the programme?

Manually or electronically check and record pulse regularity before taking blood pressure in everyone age 65 or over

9. If you are proposing a new component to the programme, please describe the effective treatment and management systems that are exist and are available.

Anticoagulation

10. Please state whether you feel the change will have a negative, neutral or positive impact on health inequalities and on the nine protected characteristic groups and why.

[please tick, max 200 words]

☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☒ Positive

Please return this completed form to:
ESCAP secretariat
Email: nhshealthcheck.mailbox@phe.gov.uk

[Why...]

Because it is a universal, cheap and easy thing to do

11. Please name a local authority that has already adopted this proposed change to their delivery of the NHS Health Check programme.

Tower Hamlets, C&Hackney and Newham – 90% have a pulse check 65 yrs and over

12. Please list any relevant references

For completion by the ESCAP secretariat

13. Proposal shared with ESCAP?

Yes.

14. ESCAP feedback

ESCAP members observed that the NHS Health Check programme's [best practice guidance](#) already recommends that a pulse rhythm check is under taken as part of the blood pressure assessment (pg 20). The guidance was also strengthened in 2016 to reflect NICE recommendations on the management of atrial fibrillation if detected by the pulse check. As screening for AF is not recommended by the UK National Screening Committee ESCAP recommended that this proposal should not progress to stage 2.

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