

NHS Health Checks in community pharmacy versus general practice

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Background

- Trafford is a relatively affluent local authority with wide in-borough inequalities
- Life expectancy matches England average
- In 2014 uptake of NHS health checks <50%
- Universally provided in GP – by invite and appointment
- One large practice population not covered

Objectives

- To provide NHS health checks for practice population not covered
- To compare uptake and costs with GP

The pharmacy service

- Invite only
- Eligible patients invited by GP letter
- Appointments booked with pharmacies
- Secure N3 connections transferred data to GP record

Outcomes

NHS Health Checks performed by	Pharmacy	Practice
Number of people invited	1000	1265
Number of checks performed	234	264
% uptake	23%	21%
Patients at high risk of CVD*	6	13
Costs		
Admin and invitations	£3,295	£3,297
Payment for health checks performed	£5,850	£2,981
Software and N3 connection	£5,616	£0
Total cost	£14,761	£6,278
Cost per health check	£63	£24

*High risk= 20% or higher risk of developing symptomatic CVD in next 10 years

Lessons learnt

- Evening and weekend access did not increase uptake
- Low uptake by men and BME – due to need to book?
- Still no universal service in Trafford as no access for people not registered at GP
- Pharmacy not cheap option
- Dependant on support from GP

Invitation method

- Highest uptake from face-to-face invites
- Telephone invites better than letter
- 1/3 of non-attenders do not remember receiving letter
- Higher uptake by South Asian and Black people where opportunistic NHS Health Checks in community pharmacy

Gidlow et al. J Public Health, 2014 [Epub DOI: 10.1093/pubmed/fdu092]

Cook EJ et al. Int J Equity Health, 2016 Jan 20;15:13

Ellis N et al. Arch Public Health, 2015;73:14

Horgan JMP et al. J Public Health, 2010;32:110-116.

Summary

- Offering appointments in community pharmacy- similar uptake to GP
- Not cheap compared to GP
- Opportunistic may produce higher uptake and widen access than invites only
- Need to agree plan for processing results with GP practices