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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NHS Health Checks performed by</th>
<th>Pharmacy</th>
<th>Practice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of people invited</strong></td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of checks performed</strong></td>
<td>234</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% uptake</strong></td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Patients at high risk of CVD</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Costs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pharmacy</th>
<th>Practice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Admin and invitations</strong></td>
<td>£3,295</td>
<td>£3,297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Payment for health checks performed</strong></td>
<td>£5,850</td>
<td>£2,981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Software and N3 connection</strong></td>
<td>£5,616</td>
<td>£0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total cost</strong></td>
<td>£14,761</td>
<td>£6,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost per health check</strong></td>
<td>£63</td>
<td>£24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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

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