

## Practice briefing: New opportunity to reduce AF related stroke

An exciting new project which aims to reduce AF-related strokes across Berkshire West has recently secured £149k of external funding. The project is a collaboration between Wokingham GP Alliance, The Royal Berkshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the Oxford Academic Health Science Network.

The aim is to develop **local anticoagulation champions** in practices across Berkshire West CCG. The champions will receive intensive training from secondary care specialists to upskill them to the point where they can become 'local experts' within their practice, thereby increasing the capability of primary care to safely and effectively prescribe anticoagulation therapy for patients at risk of an AF related stroke. Simultaneously, a **virtual MDT** will be established which will provide **specialist secondary care advice** on anticoagulation for stroke prevention with open access for local GPs. This will enable rapid access to high quality advice for the most complex patients.

We recognise the pressure that primary care is currently under and as such full backfill will be provided for all clinicians taking part in the programme, with the benefit towards individuals' CPD. The programme is primarily aimed at GPs but practice pharmacists are also welcome to participate.

### When will the project start?

The project will launch in Wokingham GP Alliance in April 2019. Other practices in Berkshire West can sign-up to be part of two cohorts of practices, one launching in October 2019 and the other launching in April 2020. The virtual MDT will go live in April 2019 and all practices across Berkshire West can access it from this date

### How is the project being funded?

Funding has been received via the Pfizer-BMS Alliance. The contractual relationship for the funding is between Oxford AHSN and the Pfizer-BMS Alliance. Participating practices will receive backfill funding through Oxford AHSN. It is important to note that there will be **no change to local prescribing guidelines or arrangements** as part of this project. Additionally no prescribing data will be shared with Pfizer-BMS.

### How can I sign-up/ find out more?

Practices will be asked to express an interest in due course. However should you have any queries in the meantime, please feel free to contact:

Dr Dan Alton, Wokingham GP Alliance- [daniel.alton@nhs.net](mailto:daniel.alton@nhs.net)

Dr Kiruba Nagaratnam, Stroke Physician, RBFT [kiruba.nagaratnam@nhs.net](mailto:kiruba.nagaratnam@nhs.net)

Hannah Oatley, Oxford AHSN [Hannah.oatley@oxfordahsn.org](mailto:Hannah.oatley@oxfordahsn.org)