

# Primary Care Cardiology Upskilling Programme



This **non-promotional** medical education programme has been initiated and funded by the BMS-Pfizer Alliance as part of their commitment to supporting best practice and enhancing patient care within the NHS.



## Introduction

There is a significant unmet clinical need in the diagnosis and management of common cardiovascular conditions such as heart failure (HF) and atrial fibrillation (AF) in primary care.<sup>1-3</sup> As a result, the NHS is faced with a significant burden of avoidable cardiovascular events with associated downstream costs.<sup>4</sup>

Lack of appropriate information and updating for healthcare professionals on signs, symptoms, opportunistic health checks and risk assessment tools may lead to significant under-diagnosis of AF and inadequate anticoagulation rates nationally.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore there is limited patient awareness of AF and stroke. Education is required to improve detection and support shared decision making.<sup>5</sup> These factors can lead to unequal access to anticoagulation options which are largely dependent on geographical location.<sup>6</sup>

These issues can be addressed to some extent with relevant education of primary care teams who are involved in the identification and management of patients with common cardiovascular conditions.

NHS clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) who commission this service, do so on the understanding that:

- They retain control and management of the training programme at all times.
- They will ensure that the service is used for the best medical interests of the patient.

Accession Healthcare Consulting Ltd are Service Providers and have no role in the promotion or sale of pharmaceutical products within the scope of the upskilling programme. It should also be noted that all participating General Practitioners and associated Consultants or Healthcare Professionals retain complete ethical and professional independence throughout their involvement in this educational programme. Accession Healthcare Consulting Ltd itself retains complete ethical and professional independence from any sponsoring parties.

This document will provide you with the necessary information required for you to make an informed decision regarding the hosting of an upskilling training day within your CCG; it will introduce the framework in which the service will be undertaken and delivered and will clearly explain the process, requirements and commitments of the involved parties to ensure that the upskilling programme is delivered in a manner that ensures benefit to the CCG and ultimately to the patient.

# Accession

## **Accountability and Management**

All Accession Healthcare Consulting Ltd Staff are required to operate to the highest of professional standards at all times. All services undertaken by Accession Healthcare Consulting Ltd comply with the requirements of the following:

- Data Protection Act 1998
- Caldicott Principles
- The NHS Confidentiality Code of Practice
- Country Specific Codes
- General Medical Council Guidance.
- NMC Code of Conduct.
- ABPI Code of Practice 2016.
- Health and Social Care act 2012.
- Any relevant therapy specific NICE or SIGN guidance.

## **Data Management**

Accession Healthcare Consulting Ltd employees and associates have been trained in the use of personal data and do so in line with the Data Protection Act 1998.

# Responsibilities

## Disclosure of Funding

It is the responsibility of Accession Healthcare Consulting Ltd and participating CCGs to ensure that attendees are made fully aware that the upskilling programme is a **non-promotional** medical education program initiated and **funded sponsored by a pharmaceutical company called the BMS-Pfizer Alliance**; this will be undertaken in the following ways:

- 1) The initial letter of invitation to GPs, and other HCPs as appropriate, will make it clear that the BMS-Pfizer Alliance has initiated and is funding the project. Letters of invitation are sent from the CCG.
- 2) When GPs, and other HCPs as appropriate, sign up to the training course on EventBrite, it will clearly state that the upskilling programme has been initiated and is funded by a pharmaceutical company called the BMS-Pfizer Alliance.
- 3) When attendees arrive at the training day they will once more be made aware the upskilling programme has been initiated and is funded by a pharmaceutical company called the BMS-Pfizer Alliance.

## Target Audience

The training course is primarily **aimed at practicing GPs**, particularly those with an interest in cardiology. However, this course could equally be useful to any healthcare practitioner that engages with patients (e.g. Nurse Practitioners) and for whom this training will assist in identifying cardiovascular risk factors.

## RCGP Accreditation

Maintaining knowledge and skills as a GP through Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is a professional responsibility. This course **provides GPs with CPD credits, accredited by the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP)**. Certification will be provided electronically to all attendees following the training after the attendees complete a post training feedback form.

## Date & Venue

Training will be conducted on a **Saturday** and will run from **9 am – 4:30 pm**. We're looking to run this programme between April-July 2017. The venue will be located within your CCGs geographical area.

**Date and venue to be confirmed.**

## Recruitment

There is a **minimum requirement of 25 attendees** for each training event. There is **no maximum number of attendees**, the only limit will be on the size of venue.

The CCG is responsible for recruiting attendees by way of email invite or any other means. Accession Healthcare Consulting Ltd will monitor the recruitment to each training event using EventBrite and will work with the CCG to ensure that the number of attendees is sufficient.

## The Training

Dr Yassir Javaid will provide the training with the following topics:

1. The diagnosis and primary care management of atrial fibrillation
2. The diagnosis and primary care management of heart failure
3. ECG interpretation, ECHO report interpretation and valve disease

Each session will run with active audience interaction encouraged. The sessions will be interspersed with real life case examples (from first presentation to end of life care) to reinforce the key learning points and making the content relevant to every day primary care. Peer comparison data for each practice will be shared to highlight the need for action. Bespoke feedback forms will be provided for each session to help participants identify prior learning needs and confidence levels as well as to reflect on their learning from each session. The course has been specifically designed (by using every day "real life" primary care scenarios) to meet the needs of primary care and to facilitate the translation of the best and current evidence base into front line practice.

## Course Details

Course length	Subject	Learning objectives
2 hours	Atrial Fibrillation	Participants will be able to deliver optimised screening for atrial fibrillation in their practice and improve detection rates. They will be able to assess whether a rhythm or rate control strategy is most appropriate and be able to risk stratify for stroke using the CHADS-Vasc tool and also assess bleeding risk with HAS-BLED. Participants will be able to assess the most appropriate anticoagulation option for their patient and safely and appropriately initiate and prescribe DOACs.
1 hour	ECG	Participants will be able to diagnose common ECG abnormalities and understand their relevance and management. They will be able to integrate a patient's clinical findings with a technical echo report to devise a coherent clinical picture for patients undergoing echocardiography.
1 hour	ECHO	
2 hours	Heart Failure	Participants will be able to perform a streamlined diagnostic work up of a patient with suspected heart failure, using and interpreting brain natriuretic peptide levels appropriately and establish an accurate diagnosis of both HFrEF and HFpEF. Participants will be able to deliver high quality pharmacological and non-pharmacological management to their heart failure patients and identify when patients should be referred to secondary care for device therapy or further assessment. They will also have a better understanding of the palliative care needs of patients with heart failure.

## Agenda

Time	Subject
8:45 – 9:00 am	Registration
9:00 – 11:00 am	<b>Atrial Fibrillation</b>
11:00 – 11:15 am	Coffee break
11:15 – 12:15 pm	<b>ECG</b>
12:15 – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 – 3:00 pm	<b>Heart Failure</b>
3:00 – 3:15 pm	Coffee break
3:15 – 4:15 pm	<b>ECHO</b>
4:15 – 4:30 pm	Departure

**\* Refreshments and lunch will be provided \***

## References

1. British Heart Foundation. BHF CVD Statistics Factsheet UK 2016. Available at <https://www.bhf.org.uk/research/heart-statistics>. Accessed December 2016
2. Public Health England. Atrial fibrillation prevalence estimates in England: application of recent population estimates of AF in Sweden. Available at: <http://www.yhpho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=207429>. Accessed April 2016
3. Hobbs. F.D.R. et al. European survey of primary care physician perceptions on heart failure diagnosis and management (Euro-HF). European Heart Journal (2000). 21;1877–1887
4. Department of Health. Cardiovascular Disease Outcomes Strategy: Improving outcomes for people with or at risk of cardiovascular disease. Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/217118/9387-2900853-CVD-Outcomes\\_web1.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/217118/9387-2900853-CVD-Outcomes_web1.pdf). Accessed February 2017
5. Atrial Fibrillation Association. The AF Report. Atrial Fibrillation: Preventing a Stroke Crisis. 2014. Available at: <http://www.preventaf-strokecrisis.org/files/files/The%20AF%20Report%2014%20April%202012.pdf>. Accessed February 2017.
6. UKCPA. Rising to the challenge: Delivering QIPP by preventing AF-related stroke. 2013. Available at: <http://www.ukcpa.net/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/UKCPA-REPORT-ELECTRONIC-VERSION.pdf>. Accessed February 2017.
7. ABPI. Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry 2016. Available at: <http://www.pmcpa.org.uk/thecode/Documents/Code%20of%20Practice%202016%20.pdf>. Accessed January 2017