

Learning Disability Annual Health Checks Directed Enhanced Service

The short report below outlines uptake and actions taken by Oxfordshire PCT to increase uptake of Annual Health Checks for people with Learning Disability. It answers four questions put by the Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee following a presentation by My Life My Choice at the committee's January meeting.

- **Details from the PCT on the uptake of healthchecks by people with learning disabilities**

2010/11	40%
2011/12	46% (latest data available locally but not yet nationally)

We are encouraged to see an increasing trend of uptake across the county and with input as described below look forward to a further increase this year.

- **Comparison data where possible**

The link below shows uptake for 2010/11 across the whole country for comparison. We do not have more up to date data as yet.

<http://www.improvinghealthandlives.org.uk/numbers/checks/maps2011/>

South Central region average for 2010/11	36%
National Average for 2010/11	49%

- **Why this is reported to be low in Oxfordshire**

The provision of a Health Check for people with a Learning Disability is provided by way of a Directed Enhanced Service. While the PCT must make this service specification available to all practices in Oxfordshire, as with all enhanced services, whether local or national, it is entirely up to individual practices to decide whether they want to offer it to their patients. However, last year 78 out of the total 83 practices signed up to offer this health check to their patients and 73 practices actually took part and were paid for completed checks.

- **Details of if/how this is written into GPs contracts and how compliance is monitored/enforced**

This service is not written into GP contracts and compliance cannot be enforced. As explained above it is offered to practices through a Directed Enhanced Service and is up to individual practices whether they offer the service to patients or not. Writing it into national GP contracts is outside the remit of PCTs. However, Oxfordshire PCT encourage practices to participate in enhanced services as they demonstrate good practice.

- **What action is in place to increase the number of healthchecks offered/provided**

We are fortunate to have three Learning Disability Trust (Ridgeway) GP Liaison nurses available specifically to help Oxfordshire practices maximise uptake of the health checks by providing support with the patients registers together with additional staff training and general help. The nurses have been in post since June 2011 and they have since contacted 90% of all GP practices in Oxfordshire offering to check the GP LD registers.

In addition their work includes:

- Resources being made available to Practices re access to Learning Disability Teams/ Eligibility to access services
- Provider services and carer groups starting to be offered refresher training on importance of Annual Health Checks
- Accessible Information offered to Primary Care Practices
- Accessible Annual Health Check letters
- Supporting Practices to identify 'hard to reach' or more vulnerable people on their register
- Providing support for Practices to source alternatives to other Annual Health Check models/ templates

Our Patient Advice and Liaison Service has previously made an offer through relevant organisations that any person having difficulty getting a health check should ring the helpline at the PCT and we will arrange for a health check to be made available. To date, no requests have been made.

With the resource as described above, we are pleased to note that this has increased uptake across the county and we will continue to work towards even more patients being offered health checks in 2012/13.

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