

Increasing the use of direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs) to prevent strokes and save lives in your area

DOACs are medicines which can **prevent strokes by preventing blood clots in patients with atrial fibrillation (AF)**.

Following recent NICE guidance which recommends that DOACs are more effective for the prevention of AF-related stroke than other anticoagulants, NHS England has put in place a programme, including a number of agreements, to expand DOAC access.

What's the opportunity?



To prevent thousands of potentially fatal strokes by treating over **600,000 more people** with a DOAC.

How can it be delivered with your support?



DETECT: Reduce incidence of stroke by diagnosing more patients with AF.

PROTECT: Ensure patients diagnosed with AF are offered anticoagulation, where appropriate.

PERFECT: Ensure patients with AF are on the correct dose of the best value DOAC (edoxaban), where clinically appropriate. If edoxaban is not clinically appropriate, consider an alternative DOAC.

What could be achieved?



An estimated **21,700 strokes** could be prevented and **5,400 lives saved** over the next three years.

NHS England is funding two Primary Care Network Investment and Impact Fund Indicators (IIFs) for 2022/23 to support best practice:

- **CVD-05:** More AF patients to be treated with DOACs, where clinically appropriate.
- **CVD-06:** Where clinically appropriate, more AF patients receiving DOACs to be prescribed edoxaban as the best value DOAC.



By ensuring that all patients who would benefit from a diagnosis of AF and treatment with a DOAC are offered treatment, we have an incredible opportunity to **save thousands of lives, and prevent the serious harm** caused by having a stroke for thousands more. I would **encourage NHS colleagues to take steps to help expand access to DOACs**, and to raise awareness of the new recommendations for treatment with a DOAC, to realise the opportunity to improve AF care and reduce preventable stroke events in your area.

Professor Sir Stephen Powis,
NHS Medical Director



Colleagues are urged to capitalise on this chance to improve cardiovascular health outcomes across the country by:

- **Taking steps to ensure that each patient in your local area who would benefit from a DOAC is offered treatment.**
- **Actively raising awareness of the new commissioning recommendations and IIFs.**

