

# Patient-centred care in atrial fibrillation: an integrated management approach.

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## 1 What was done



The atrial fibrillation (AF) clinic was established in a tertiary referral hospital. The clinic is led by a hospital pharmacist (HP), with expertise in cardiology and anticoagulation, and an advanced nurse practitioner (ANP) specialised in electrophysiology. Cardiologists' input is available when required. Patients' engagement in shared decision-making guides stroke prevention treatment.

## 2 Why was it done



The AF clinic has shortened the referral pathway for patients; primary care and secondary care physicians now refer patients directly to the clinic. The HP is responsible for medication optimisation, counselling and education whilst the ANP can focus on clinical examinations, diagnostics, analysis of tests results and AF treatment options.

## 3 How was it done



The clinic was established one day a week and has cardiac-physiology resources available on the same day. It was also necessary to ensure allocated time for the ANP and HP to deliver the service.

## 4 What has been achieved



The HP has improved patient safety by conducting medication reviews, in particular optimization of anticoagulants according to patients' preferences. HP also provides to the patients a one-to-one counselling session on their medications (focus on anticoagulants), adherence, drug interactions and side effects.



<https://www.eahp.eu/gpis/patient-centred-care-atrial-fibrillation-integrated-management-approach>

## 5

## What's next?

Having seen the benefits of this AF Clinic and the holistic service it delivers, it is recommended that hospitals with cardiac services should establish their own AF clinic to provide optimum treatment and prevent AF-related complications