



Referral for Review of Long Term Amiodarone Prescribing

There are a number of patients in the county who have been prescribed amiodarone for over 12 months and who are not “under” cardiology. The NICE Clinical Guideline on Atrial Fibrillation: Management (CG180) states that amiodarone should not be used long term for rate control in atrial fibrillation (AF) and where used for rhythm control, before or after electrical cardioversion it should only be for up to 12 months. As Amiodarone has potential major toxicity and requires monitoring both clinically and via laboratory testing, it should only be prescribed long-term where other treatments cannot be used or have failed. A pathway has been agreed to ensure that all patients on amiodarone have appropriate cardiology follow up.

Please ensure that suitable patients are referred using the following pathway.

GP/Practice Pharmacist Identifies patient on Amiodarone >12 months

- ✓ Identify reason for Amiodarone- AF/PAF/AT/VT
- ✓ Check if decision to be on permanent amiodarone – letter from consultant
- ✓ Check if the patient already has a cardiology appointment
- ✓ Ensure Thyroid Function Tests (TFTs) in last 6 months
- ✓ Ensure Liver Function Tests (LFTs) in last 6 months
- ✓ Check heart rate and ECG
- ✓ Check for any Adverse Drug Reactions (ADR) including
 - Abnormal TFTs
 - Symptoms of thyroid dysfunction (hyper or hypo - thyroidism)
 - Abnormal LFTs
 - Shortness of breath or other symptoms of lung disease

If a patient does not have a cardiology appointment in the next 6 months or has ADRs - refer to the virtual clinic:

- **KGH: follow regular cardiology referral procedure but mark referral ‘Long Term Amiodarone patient requiring a safety review.’**
- **NGH: email Rebecca Coleman (Arrhythmia Nurse Specialist) rebecca.coleman16@nhs.net**

Ensure the following information is provided with the referral:

- Thyroid Function Tests in last 6 months
- Liver Function Tests in last 6 months
- ECG (12 lead preferred 1 or 6 lead may be sufficient)
- Why the referral is being requested

The clinic will advise the GP accordingly and an appointment will only be offered if the above tests and results are available.