

NT proBNP testing in NHS Scotland 2020

Background

SCBN received an enquiry from the Scottish Pulmonary Vascular Unit, Glasgow (National service) regarding the availability of NT proBNP testing in Scotland. Given the pandemic they are looking at ways in which they may be able to remotely monitor their patients without them having to travel.

The network last surveyed availability and use of Natriuretic Peptides back in 2017. At that point both BNP and NTproBNP tests were in use and there was also variation in whether the tests were available to secondary or primary care .

Aim

To establish a more up to date snapshot of the availability of NTproBNP testing across NHS Scotland and also capture key information on which population (primary care /secondary care /both) this was available to and to ascertain any restrictions to the use of the test.

Method

This enquiry was raised as an item at the August Steering Group meeting with responses requested from all boards.

Results

NHS Scotland Board	NTproBNP available in house	Primary care	Secondary care	Restrictions for use in secondary care
Ayrshire and Arran	N	N	Y	Requests referred to GGC after vetting. Typically requested by Cardiology
Borders	Y	Y	N	Service went live September 2020. No restrictions but have to enter critical clinical info set by cardiology.
Dumfries and Galloway	Y	Y	Y	Cardiology. Not available routinely in secondary without prior discussion. Further requests rejected following a positive result.
Fife	Y	N	Y	Cardiology Heart failure clinic only

Forth Valley	Y	Y	Y	Cardiology . Not available routinely in secondary without prior discussion
GGC	Y	Y	Y	Available according to Heart failure pathway
Grampian	Y	Y	Y	Cardiology (and some for ICU Covid-19 cases). Cardiology cross charged
Highland	Y	Y	Y	Secondary care use limited to Cardiology/Respiratory teams and patients on Enestro
Lanarkshire	Y	N	Y	Cardiology
Lothian	Y	Y	Y	Secondary care use restricted to heart failure team
Orkney	Y	Y	Y	Funded by Cardiology who have not imposed any restrictions on use by either primary or secondary care
Shetland	Y	Y	Y	No restrictions on use
Tayside	Y	Y	N	Business case in progress to roll out to secondary care
Western Isles	NR	NR	NR	NR

*No response received

Discussion

Responses were received from 13/14 NHS Scotland boards. NTproBNP testing is now performed in all bar one of these 13 boards. The remaining responder board referred secondary care requests (once vetted) to a neighbouring board.

NT proBNP is available to primary care in 10/13 responder boards (exceptions are Ayrshire and Arran, Fife and Lanarkshire) and it is used according to a defined heart failure diagnostic pathway. The test is also available in 11/13 responder boards to secondary care (exceptions are Borders and Tayside), although generally to restricted clinics/services, such as Cardiology. Tayside have a business case in progress to roll out NTproBNP testing to secondary care.

Survey results will be fed back to the Scottish Pulmonary vascular unit.

