

Managing atrial fibrillation

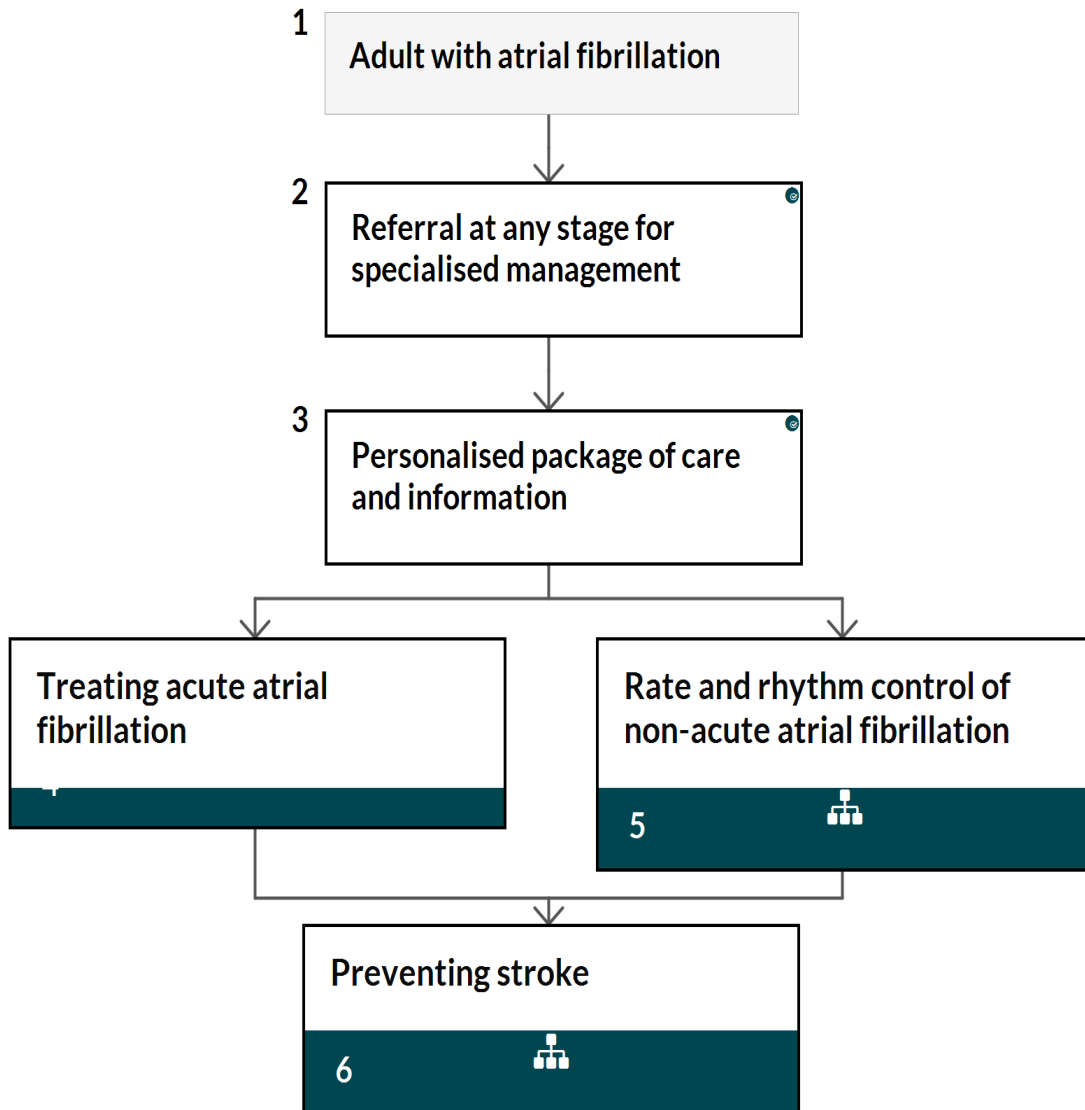
NICE Pathways bring together everything NICE says on a topic in an interactive flowchart. NICE Pathways are interactive and designed to be used online.

They are updated regularly as new NICE guidance is published. To view the latest version of this NICE Pathway see:

<http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/atrial-fibrillation>

NICE Pathway last updated: 02 July 2021

This document contains a single flowchart and uses numbering to link the boxes to the associated recommendations.



1 Adult with atrial fibrillation

No additional information

2 Referral at any stage for specialised management

Refer people promptly at any stage if treatment fails to control the symptoms of atrial fibrillation and more specialised management is needed. This should be within 4 weeks after the failed treatment or after recurrence of atrial fibrillation following cardioversion.

Quality standards

The following quality statement is relevant to this part of the interactive flowchart.

5. Referral for specialised management

3 Personalised package of care and information

Offer people with atrial fibrillation a personalised package of care. Ensure that the package of care is documented and delivered, and that it covers:

- stroke awareness and measures to prevent stroke
- rate control
- assessment of symptoms for rhythm control
- who to contact for advice if needed
- psychological support if needed
- up-to-date and comprehensive education and information on:
 - cause, effects and possible complications of atrial fibrillation
 - management of rate and rhythm control
 - anticoagulation
 - practical advice on anticoagulation in line with [information and support in the NICE Pathway on venous thromboembolism](#)
 - support networks (for example, cardiovascular charities).

NICE has written [information for the public on atrial fibrillation](#).

Follow the recommendations on [shared decision making in the NICE Pathway on patient experience in adult NHS services](#).

To support adherence and ensure safe and effective medicines use in people with atrial fibrillation, follow the recommendations in [the NICE Pathway on medicines optimisation](#).

Quality standards

The following quality statement is relevant to this part of the interactive flowchart.

3. Discussing options for anticoagulation

4 Treating acute atrial fibrillation

[See Atrial fibrillation / Treating acute atrial fibrillation](#)

5 Rate and rhythm control of non-acute atrial fibrillation

[See Atrial fibrillation / Rate and rhythm control of non-acute atrial fibrillation](#)

6 Preventing stroke

[See Atrial fibrillation / Preventing stroke in people with atrial fibrillation](#)

Sources

Atrial fibrillation: diagnosis and management (2021, updated June 2021) NICE guideline NG196

Your responsibility

Guidelines

The recommendations in this guideline represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, professionals and practitioners are expected to take this guideline fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients or the people using their service. It is not mandatory to apply the recommendations, and the guideline does not override the responsibility to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual, in consultation with them and their families and carers or guardian.

Local commissioners and providers of healthcare have a responsibility to enable the guideline to be applied when individual professionals and people using services wish to use it. They should do so in the context of local and national priorities for funding and developing services, and in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities. Nothing in this guideline should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with complying with those duties.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.

Technology appraisals

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, health professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients. The application of the recommendations in this interactive flowchart is at the discretion of health professionals and

their individual patients and do not override the responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or their carer or guardian.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to provide the funding required to enable the recommendations to be applied when individual health professionals and their patients wish to use it, in accordance with the NHS Constitution. They should do so in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.

Medical technologies guidance, diagnostics guidance and interventional procedures guidance

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, healthcare professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account. However, the interactive flowchart does not override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to implement the recommendations, in their local context, in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations. Nothing in this interactive flowchart should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.