



## Introduction

During 2016, an annual audit of the NHS Health Check programme in North Yorkshire, was undertaken by the Public Health team, to evaluate the extent of which a uniform offer was being delivered across the County.

## Purpose

Undertaking the audit locally ensures the programme is meeting the National Standards, helps to identify any areas for improvement and supports future commissioning decisions.

## Method

GP practices were ranked according to uptake rates of their patient populations. A random number generator was used to select four practices from the top 10%, four from the middle 10% and four from the bottom 10% of performing practices. In total, 12 practice visits were led by the Public Health team. All practices were asked to complete a self-assessment framework prior to the visit, during the visit members of the Public Health team ensured the accuracy of the self-assessment by seeking relevant evidence.

## Results

In those practices audited, there has been a significant improvement in four of the nine standards: **Standards Three, Four, Five (Risk Assessment) and Six (Communication).**

## Audit Results 2016



## Conclusion

The audit highlights strengths in local delivery and emphasising areas for further development; eleven recommendations have been made to improve the quality of the service. There is a need to consider frequency and sample size of audit moving forward.

## Recommendations

- Standard Three: The Risk Assessment** – Practices should continue to ensure that all required elements of the NHS Health Check, including AUDIT-C screen, are captured by the SystemOne or EMIS template used during consultations.
- Standard Six: Communication of Results** – A results booklet detailing the findings of the NHS Health Check should be provided to patients at the time of their consultation.
- Standard Seven: Risk Management** – Practices should produce a patient pathway for the use of all clinicians involved with the delivery of the NHS Health Check programme, detailing referral thresholds.
- Standard Seven: Risk Management** – All clinicians delivering NHS Health Checks should be aware of lifestyle services that are available in the local area, and how patients can be referred into these services if needed.
- All standards** – All components of the NHS Health Check process, including the outcome of any referrals, should be recorded with Health Check-specific read-codes to enable effective monitoring of service.
- All standards** – Practices should complete audits of the NHS Health Check to assess the effectiveness of the programme, which will encourage service improvement.
- All standards** – Practices should seek opportunities to receive Health Check-specific feedback to increase their understanding of how the programme is received by patients.
- Practices should ensure that all staff involved in delivering NHS Health Checks remain up-to-date with training and the latest advice and guidance.
- The results of this audit cycle should be used to inform future commissioning plans for the NHS Health Check programme in North Yorkshire.
- Learning from this audit process should be disseminated and shared at a regional level where possible.
- The methodology and frequency of future NHS Health Check audits in North Yorkshire should be reviewed in the light of the findings from this audit cycle.