

# The SAFER trial: AF screening to prevent strokes



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

Public Health and Primary Care  
The Primary Care Unit

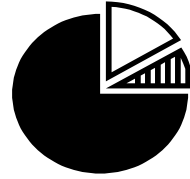
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**30% of strokes**

**are associated with AF**



# SAFER

## Screening for AF

82,000 patients aged 70 and over screening over 3 weeks at home.

Hand-held single-lead ECG devices, analysed by cardiologists, sent to GPs to anticoagulate AF.

Reduction of stroke as primary outcome.

Contributes to evidence on paroxysmal AF in stroke guidelines.

## Progress

~ 80,000 patients in ~190 practices – on target.

2.7% of patients newly diagnosed with AF.  
(~4% diagnosed overall)

Vast majority anticoagulated.

Successful, feasible and well-received screening programme.

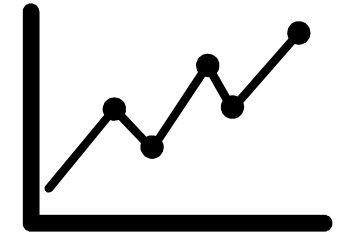


# Screening

- Evidence
- Ethics
- Policy
- Technology



# Solution



# Use evidence and collaborate

## **Symptomatic AF**

Palpitations, dizziness and shortness of breath, for which there is evidence

## **Hand-held devices**

Feasible and accurate when analysed by cardiology staff. Reports managed by GPs

## **Cost-saving?**

Collaboration with AHSN, ICBs and clinicians can create practical pathways to reduce workload on hospitals and primary care

# Thank you