Developing a multi-disciplinary approach to ensure patients receiving IM vitamin B12 are clinically indicated

May 2023

Our learning so far.....

Following the implementation of the “Guidance on the review of patients on intramuscular (IM) vitamin B12 (hydroxocobalamin) injections and identifying those in whom this may be stopped”, in November 2020, work has been underway to test and spread the use of the guideline across primary care.

Following an initial pilot in treatment rooms across 2 localities, learning identified challenges experienced by staff in accessing patient data. As a result, data is now being collected by the Pharmacy Team who have more direct access to the information required.

The review process should be a tri-party approach with input required from the Pharmacy Team, Treatment Rooms and GP staff. Click here to read the guideline.

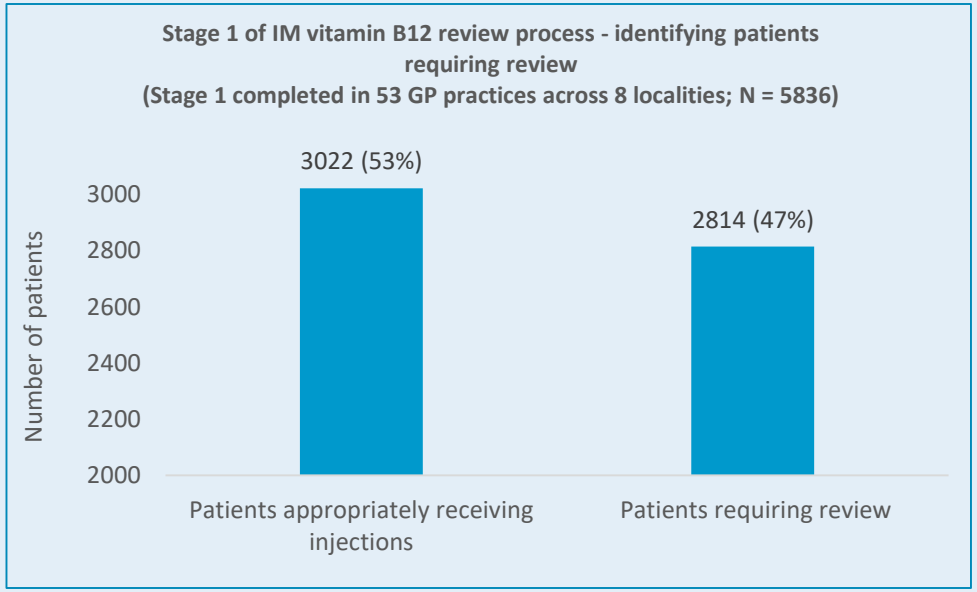
Guideline review process

Stage 1 of the review process requires identification of patients receiving IM vitamin B12 within the GP practice. Those who require review will be moved onto **stage 2** when decision is made as to whether the patient should continue with treatment or if they can stop and commence monitoring.

Outcomes to date

Data has been returned for 53 practices across 8 localities. Number of practice returns for each review stage is identified in the table below split by H&SCP.

	North H&SCP	South H&SCP
Stage 1 review	22	31
Stage 2 review	1	3



Health&Social Care North Lanarkshire

South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership

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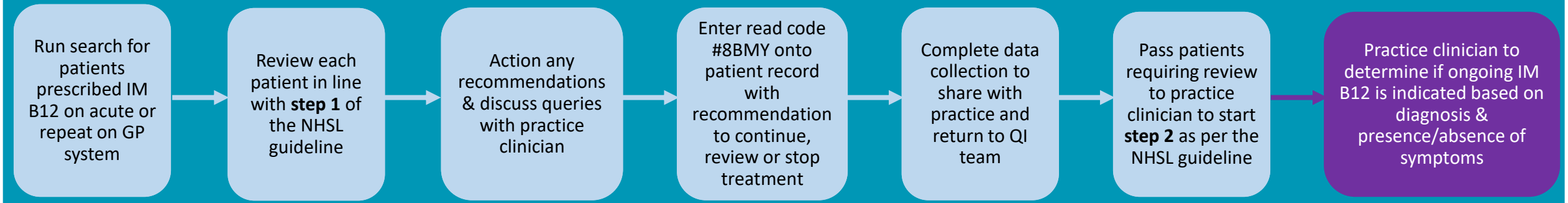
NHS Lanarkshire IM vitamin B12 review process

Blue box – Pharmacy actions

Purple box – Practice clinician actions



What's needed next?

Existing data identifies a significant number of patients requiring review. Further stage 2 data is required to identify those patients who can stop receiving injections & commence monitoring. However, initial pilot data suggests up to 48% of those requiring review can stop injections. The potential for significant increased capacity across the system requires all tri-party teams to continue with this collaborative approach to ensure treatment is clinically indicated for the patient as per the NHSL approved guideline.

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