Module Specification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module title</th>
<th>Atrial Fibrillation and Stroke Prevention</th>
<th>FHEQ Level</th>
<th>Level 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module tutor</td>
<td>Linda Edmunds</td>
<td>Credit value</td>
<td>30 (CAT) 15 (ECTS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module type</td>
<td>Comprehensive on-line distance learning supported by interactive study day. Optional module for BSc (Hons) in Long Term Conditions</td>
<td>Notional learning hours</td>
<td>300</td>
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2. Rationale for the module and its links with other modules
   This module is an optional module for the BSc (Hons) in Long-Term Conditions and seeks to develop the student’s ability to understand the importance of detecting and managing atrial fibrillation, with an emphasis on stroke prevention and apply the evidence to their practice. The module is underpinned by the principles of evidence-based healthcare and incorporates key elements of the NHS Long-Term Conditions agenda. Its focus on specific areas of care within the cardiovascular spectrum offers strong links with other disease specific modules within the programme pathways.

3. Aims of the module
   This module is suitable for all primary healthcare professionals participating in the care of individuals with, or at risk of cardiovascular disease. The module aims to promote the development of a sound, comprehensive knowledge base of atrial fibrillation and its impact within the cardiovascular spectrum, with a particular emphasis on stroke prevention. The module will also address the recognition of early warning signs of stroke and transient ischaemic attack (TIA), secondary prevention and long term care.

   Successful students of this course will be able to demonstrate appropriate skills and knowledge in the detection, diagnosis, risk assessment and management of atrial fibrillation and its role in stroke prevention. They will also recognise the importance of early acute management and understand the principles of secondary prevention and long term care of patients with stroke/TIA. As such students will be able to be proactive in advising and initiating appropriate management strategies in line with current clinical guidance and be responsive to the changing needs of patients, their families and the wider health system.

4. Pre-requisite modules or specified entry requirements
   A Health Professional qualification
### 5. Intended learning outcomes

#### A. Knowledge and understanding

**At the end of the module, learners will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:**

A1: Discuss the epidemiology of atrial fibrillation and stroke and evaluate the importance of preventative strategies in the reduction of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality

A2: Explain the pathophysiology of atrial fibrillation and stroke and apply this to clinical assessment and management strategies

#### B. Cognitive skills

**At the end of the module learners will be able to:**

B1: Critically appraise and evaluate evidence and clinical guidelines relating to the pharmacological and non-pharmacological management of atrial fibrillation, TIA and stroke to underpin decision making in a range of clinical situations

B2: Synthesise knowledge gained through experiential learning and study activities to evaluate own and others’ practice and service delivery

#### C. Practical and professional skills

**At the end of the module, learners will be able to:**

C1: Critically analyse the key issues in the detection and diagnosis of atrial fibrillation and the importance of risk assessment and on-going management to prevent stroke including relevant referral pathways

C2: Assess people with the early warning signs of stroke and TIA recognising the need for urgent acute management and the facilitation of appropriate referrals

C3: Evaluate the importance of effective rehabilitation and on-going secondary prevention for stroke and TIA; recognising the physical and psychological impact on patients and their families and supporting self-management of cardiovascular disease and risk factor modification

#### D Key transferable skills

**At the end of the module, learners will be able to:**

D1: Critically analyse the key issues for patients and healthcare professionals in the prevention and management of cardiovascular disease and supporting self-management
6. Indicative content

The subjects covered include:

- Epidemiology and impact of atrial fibrillation and stroke
- Pathophysiology of the heart, conduction system and atrial fibrillation
- Pathophysiology of stroke and TIA
- Detection, diagnosis and assessment of atrial fibrillation including stroke risk assessment
- Pharmacological and non-pharmacological management of atrial fibrillation, with emphasis on stroke prevention
- Recognising early warning signs of stroke and TIA and urgent acute management
- Secondary prevention and long term management
- Facilitating a patient centred approach and developing strategies for self-management

7. Assessment strategy, assessment methods and their relative weightings

Coursework 1: Students are required to submit an assignment of 2000 words that related to clinical practice. It must illustrate in depth their understanding of the pathophysiology of atrial fibrillation and stroke and relate this to the patient. The assignment will be required to discuss the importance of prevention strategies to reduce cardiovascular death and mortality related to atrial fibrillation and stroke, it will demonstrate in depth understanding of atrial fibrillation and stroke risk assessment and demonstrate their understanding of the importance of recognising early warning signs, diagnosis and acute management strategies.

Coursework 1 comprises of 40% of the total mark.

Coursework 2: Students are required to submit a case study of 3000 words. This consists of a detailed case study of a person with established atrial fibrillation who has also had a TIA or stroke. Utilising relevant research it must demonstrate in-depth analysis of the management and application of pharmacological and non-pharmacological management strategies for atrial fibrillation, TIA and stroke, this should include secondary prevention, rehabilitation and self-management. The case study should demonstrate in-depth understanding of the impact for patients, families and health professionals following a diagnosis of atrial fibrillation and stroke.

Course work 2 comprises of 60% of the total mark.

8. Mapping of assessment tasks to learning outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning outcomes</th>
<th>A1</th>
<th>A2</th>
<th>B1</th>
<th>B2</th>
<th>C1</th>
<th>C2</th>
<th>C3</th>
<th>D1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
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### 9. Teaching staff associated with the module

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tutor’s name and contact details</th>
<th>Contact hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linda Edmunds, Education for Health</td>
<td>8.30-5.00 Mon to Fri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:l.edmunds@educationforhealth.org">l.edmunds@educationforhealth.org</a></td>
<td></td>
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### 10. Key reading list

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Cardiovascular Disease Outcomes Strategy: Improving outcomes for people with or at risk of cardiovascular disease</td>
<td>DH</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dh.gov.uk">www.dh.gov.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NICE</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Guideline for the Management of Atrial Fibrillation</td>
<td>NICE</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nice.org.uk">www.nice.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal College of Physicians</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>National Clinical Guidelines on Stroke</td>
<td>Royal College of Physicians</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk">www.rcplondon.ac.uk</a></td>
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### 11. Other indicative text (e.g. websites)

- Arrhythmia Alliance [www.arrhythmiaalliance.org.uk](http://www.arrhythmiaalliance.org.uk)
- Atrial Fibrillation Association [www.atrialfibrillation.org.uk](http://www.atrialfibrillation.org.uk)
- The Stroke Association [www.stroke.org.uk](http://www.stroke.org.uk)