



1 MAR 2010

Nottinghamshire Area Prescribing Committee

Hawthorn House  
Ransom Wood Business Park  
Southwell Road West  
Mansfield  
Notts  
NG21 0JH

Tel: 0300 300 1234  
Fax: 01623 673401  
Web: [www.nottspct.nhs.uk](http://www.nottspct.nhs.uk)

24<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Professor Phillip Bath  
Division Of Stroke Medicine,  
University of Nottingham,  
Clinical Sciences Building,  
Nottingham City Hospital Campus,  
Hucknall Road,  
Nottingham  
NG5 1PB.

Dear Professor Bath

**Re: PODCAST TRIAL – follow on to letter dated 10.02.10**

I am writing on behalf of the Nottinghamshire Area Prescribing Committee (APC) to summarise the discussions concerning the PODCAST trial for which you were in attendance along with your colleagues Dr Sandeep Ankolekar and Nathalie Bailey-Flitter.

The main discussion points were;

**Target BP in intensive treatment group**

Several committee members commented that a target BP of 125mmHg would be a hard target to reach as well as potentially increasing the falls risk in this group of patients.

**Target LDL in intensive treatment group**

The target LDL of 2mmol was also thought to be ambitious and there was discussion around how this would be achieved. It was indicated that medicines such as Atorvastatin and Ezetimibe are likely to be prescribed to get these patients to target. This raises an issue in Primary Care with regard to the Department of Health's Better Care Better Value Indicators (BCBV) as statin prescribing is benchmarked against the standards set out in BCBV.

### **Cost of Intensive Treatment**

There are likely to be added costs associated with treating patients intensively which will come from the GPs prescribing budget. Further detail as to what the likely costs will be is required.

### **Access to study co-ordinator**

The point was raised that the patients in the trial may attend the GP with health issues that may be related to the trial. It was recognised that a balance needs to be struck whereby a trial co-ordinator doesn't end up treating unrelated health issues but also that the workload in primary care doesn't increase due to the trial.

### **Data for QoF**

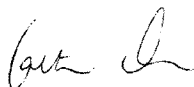
It was acknowledged that it would be helpful to primary care if investigations carried out could be communicated in such a way as to make recording efficient with regard to QoF.

Dr Bicknell (Beechdale Surgery) has agreed to discuss further the practicalities of the study.

**In summary the Nottinghamshire APC committee supported the trial in principle pending further detail on the financial implications and whether these can be adequately resourced.**

If you require any further information please contact me.

Yours sincerely



Cathy Quinn

**Chair Nottinghamshire Area Prescribing Committee**

cc

Natalie Bailey Flitter, PCRN-EMSY Locality Manager:Trent Hub, Birch House  
Dr Sandeep Ankolekar, Research Fellow, Division Of Stroke Medicine, University of Nottingham, Clinical Sciences Building, Nottingham City Hospital Campus, Hucknall Road, Nottingham NG5 1PB.

Dr Marcus Bicknell, Beechdale Surgery, 439 Beechdale Road, Nottingham, NG8 3LF