

Appendix A-13a: Referral Primary Care Physician Letter

Dear Primary Care Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce the launch of a highly integrated program for the management of patients with atrial fibrillation (AF) at BWH. In response to several statements from professional societies about optimizing care for AF, we assembled a multidisciplinary team to ensure patients with AF receive coordinated care for the “driver” conditions, treatment to minimize the risk of stroke, and navigation through the available options to improve quality of life in AF).

Upon intake to the center, we will screen the patient for relevant comorbidities and facilitate appropriate referrals to help better manage any drivers of your patient’s AF). Clinical pharmacists specialized in the management of patients with AF will provide patient education and counseling on medications, anticoagulation management service (AMS), and our newly introduced rate control strategy based on established protocols. They will also monitor anti-arrhythmic drug usage and antithrombotic therapy after left atrial appendage occlusion procedures.

Symptom control is given a high priority. We utilize two validated questionnaires – the Atrial Fibrillation Effect on Quality-of-Life (AFEQT) and the Mayo Atrial Fibrillation-Specific Symptom Inventory (MAFSI). The resulting scores will be assessed at baseline, again at 6 and 12 months, and then annually thereafter.

All data regarding the management of your patient with AF will be documented in Epic.

Our vision is to offer patients seen in the center the opportunity to participate in relevant research protocols as they arise. Ultimately, by linking clinical data, information from wearable devices, and biomarker findings (including whole exome sequencing through the Mass General Brigham Biobank in those patients who agree to donate a blood specimen), we plan to establish a Precision Medicine description of the patient with AF. This will lead to more personalized care for this increasingly common arrhythmia in the future.

To refer a patient to our multidisciplinary AF management program, use the Ambulatory referral to [Insert program name] – see attached screen shots of referral order. You will need to select what type of services you are looking to refer your patient for, including pharmacy and cardiology. If you wish to refer for pharmacy medication management, please select one or more of the options listed (anticoagulation, rate control, antiarrhythmic monitoring). For cardiology, please select general cardiology or EP (and list what procedure you want your patient evaluated for). As the referring provider you will continue to maintain oversight of your patient during the program’s involvement.

Once the referral is received, we will reach out to your patient to begin the intake process. If at any time you have questions, feel free to contact our clinical coordinator, [Insert name and contact info]. Patients can contact us by calling [Insert telephone number] or by emailing [Insert email address].

Warm Regards,

[Insert signatories]