

**Introduction:**

To combat the increasing morbidity and mortality from alcohol-related liver disease, the national Commissioning for Quality and Improvement Clinical Commissioning Group 9 (CQUIN CCG 9) scheme 2022 to 2023 was advocated to identify advanced liver fibrosis early in patients diagnosed with alcohol dependency. The scheme required over 35% of patients aged 16+ who were admitted for at least one night with a primary or secondary diagnosis of alcohol dependence to be ordered a test to diagnose advanced liver fibrosis.

**Method:**

All patients admitted to Bradford Royal Infirmary and coded as having a diagnosis of alcohol dependency between October 2022 and March 2023 were invited for an ultrasound elastography scan, with information leaflets also provided. At the end of the 2023 financial year, the electronic records of these patients were reviewed to identify their demographics, attendance rate for elastography, extent of liver fibrosis on elastography for those who attended, referral rates to the alcohol specialist team, readmission rates and mortality at 1-year. An elastography value of > 9 kPa was used to indicate advanced fibrosis.

**Results:**

During the study period, 91 patients were coded as having a diagnosis of alcohol dependency during their in-patient stay, of which 64 were male (age range 24-73, mean age 48.0) and 27 were female (age range 32-73, mean age 50.5). Elastography was requested for all of them, of which only 38% (n=35; male age range 31-73, mean male age 50.8, female age range 32-72, mean female age 50.1) attended.

Of those who attended for their scan, only 1 patient (male aged 56) had a diagnosis of advanced liver fibrosis. Furthermore, 71% (n=25; male age range 31-73, mean male age 52.1, female age range 32-65, mean female age 47.3) were reviewed by an alcohol specialist nurse. A 6-month readmission rate of 63% (n=22; male age range 31-67, mean male age 48.6, female age range 32-63, mean female age 47.7) was observed. A total of 2 patients (male aged 44, female aged 42) passed away within the 1-year follow-up.

**Conclusion:**

Although the requirements for CQUIN CCG 9 were met at Bradford Royal Infirmary, the clinical value of this scheme is debatable. Many patients failed to attend their elastography scan and few had advanced liver fibrosis, though fatty changes were identified in some. Given this, the scheme has not been continued at the hospital. For the population served at Bradford Royal Infirmary, we instead suggest an investment in alcohol specialist nurses to provide in-reach support in the hospital.