



Hertfordshire and  
West Essex Integrated  
Care System



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Integrated Care Board

Hypertension data pack

Central Watford PCN

Improving hypertension detection and  
management

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for a healthier future



# Introduction

## Purpose of this pack

- Hypertension is a key priority in Hertfordshire and West Essex ICS
- This data pack aims to support your Practice and PCN to improve performance on hypertension
- It provides data for your Practice and PCN on:
  - Hypertension prevalence
  - Prevalence of likely uncoded hypertension cases
  - Treatment to threshold
- The pack also provides links to useful hypertension resources and tools.

## Contents

- [Current performance on hypertension at the ICB level](#)
- [Your PCN and Practice data](#)
- [Support and resources](#)



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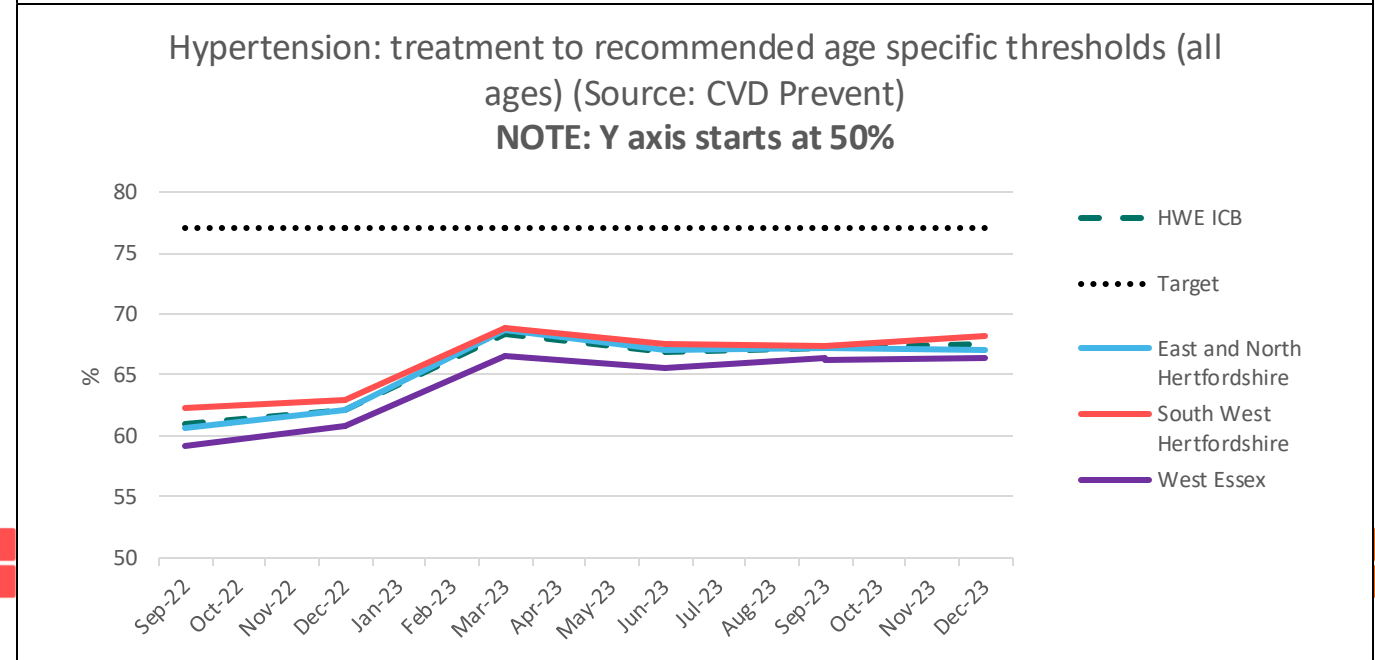
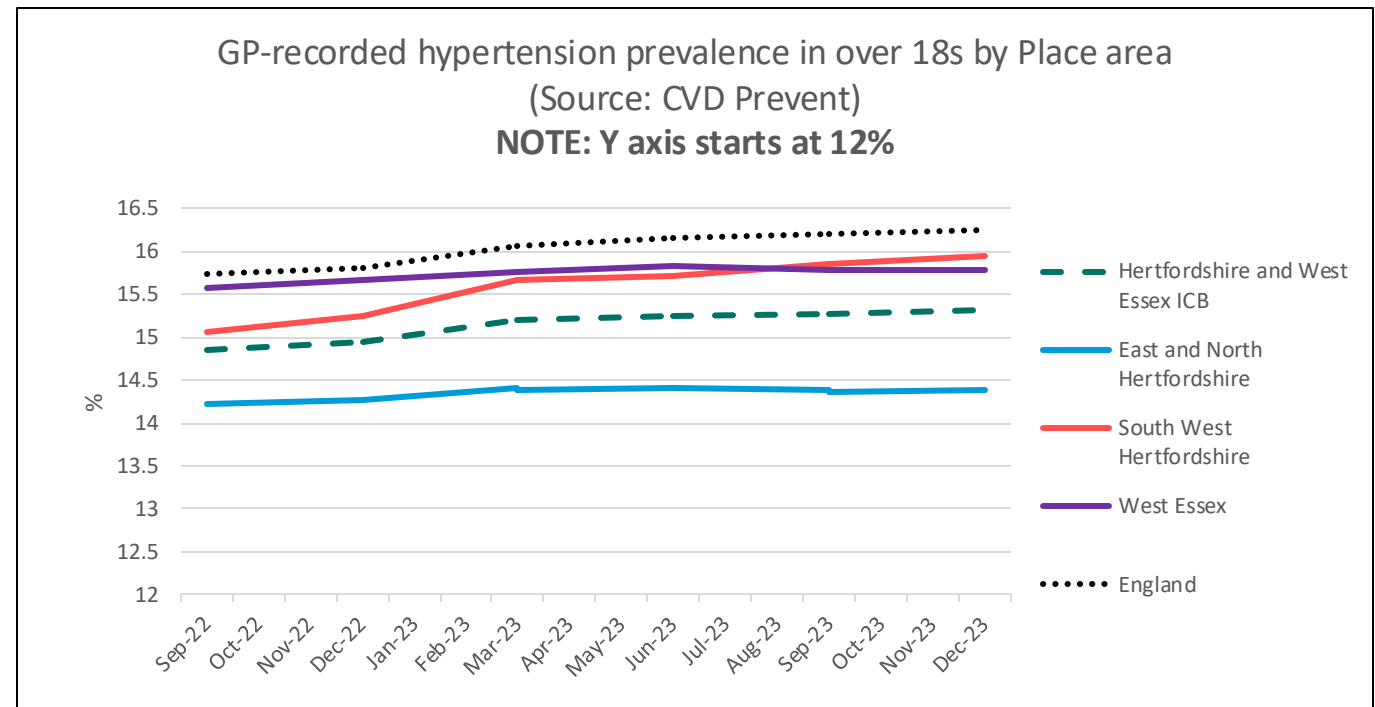
## Hypertension in HWE ICB

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# Current hypertension performance in HWE ICB

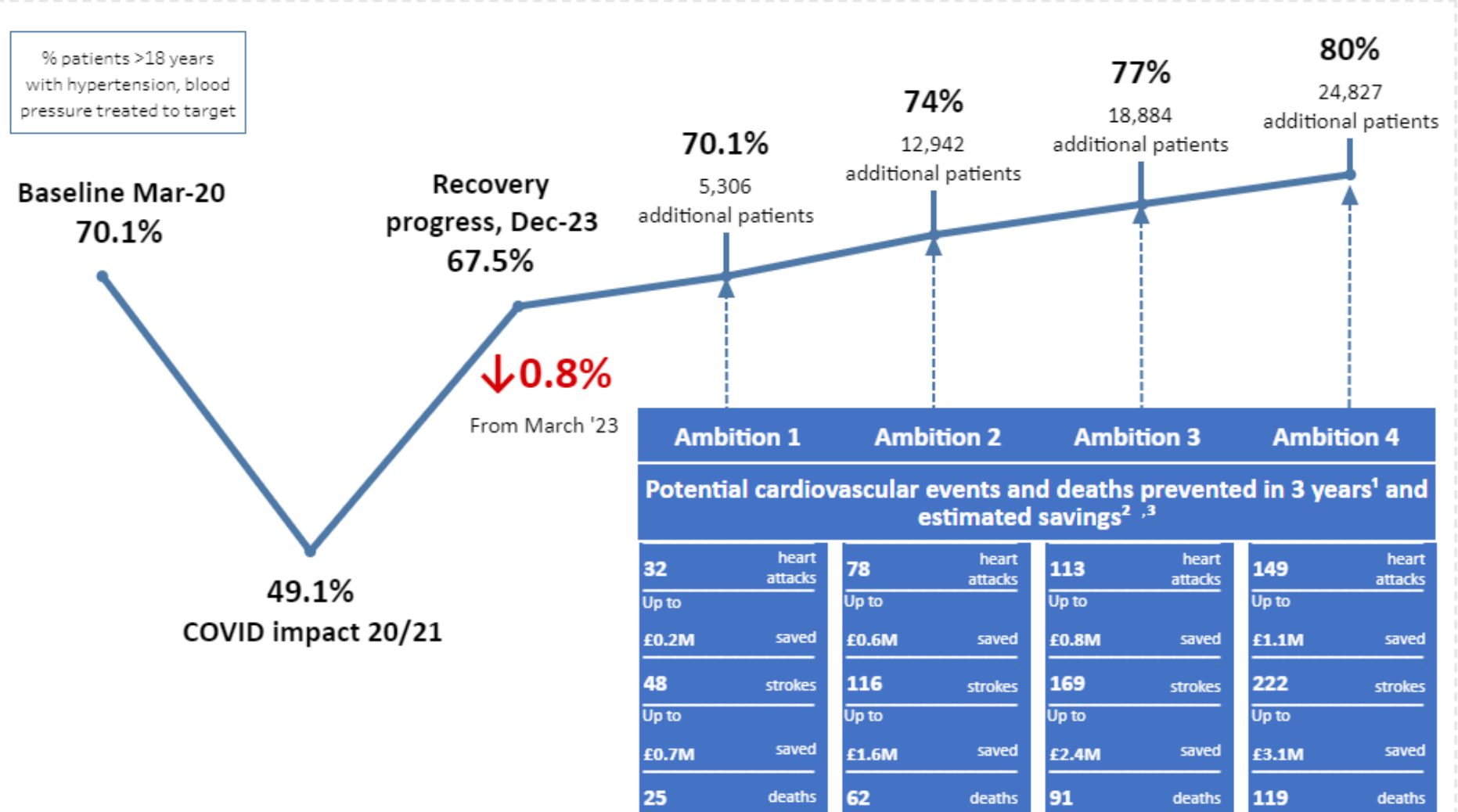
- HWE ICB hypertension prevalence is lower than national average (15.31% vs 16.25%. Source: CVD Prevent December 2023)
- Prevalence increasing but only in line with national rate – our goal is to close the gap
- Prevalence is increasing most in SWH and least in ENH
- % coverage of 5-yearly blood pressure readings in over 45s has not returned to pre-pandemic levels
- Treatment to threshold improving, and we are approaching national target of 77%



# Local opportunity

- This graph shows the improvement in health outcomes (stroke and myocardial infarction) that can be achieved through better hypertension management.
- It can be found at [Size of the Prize for high blood pressure \(uclpartners.com\)](https://www.uclpartners.com)

## Size of the Prize- Hertfordshire and West Essex BP Optimisation to Prevent Heart Attacks and Strokes at Scale



**References**

- Public Health England and NHS England 2017 Size of the Prize
- Royal College of Physicians (2016). Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme. Cost and Cost-effectiveness analysis.
- Kerr, M (2012). Chronic Kidney disease in England: The human and financial cost

**Modelling**

Data source: CVDPrevent. Briefing note: [CVDPrevent online methodology annex v1 December 2022](#)  
 Potential events calculated with NNT (theNNT.com). For blood pressure, anti-hypertensive medicines for five years to prevent death, heart attacks, and strokes: 1 in 100 for heart attack, 1 in 67 for stroke.



# Characteristics of people with undiagnosed hypertension in HWE ICB

## Non-modifiable risk factors

- Men more likely than women
- Aged 50+
- Black/Black British or Asian/Asian British ethnicity

## Modifiable risk factors

- Diet
- Smoking
- Alcohol consumption
- Weight

## Health beliefs and attitudes

- Those with undiagnosed hypertension more likely to **self-report** being in good or excellent health → challenge for services to encourage people to check their blood pressure if they feel well



Invincible feeling

Invisible danger

Take a sec to check

You may feel healthy and strong, but **high blood pressure has no symptoms**. If left untreated, it can cause a heart attack or stroke.



Find a pharmacy for a free blood pressure check.  
[hertsandwestessex.ics.nhs.uk/bp](https://hertsandwestessex.ics.nhs.uk/bp)  
or scan the QR code.



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## Your PCN and Practice data

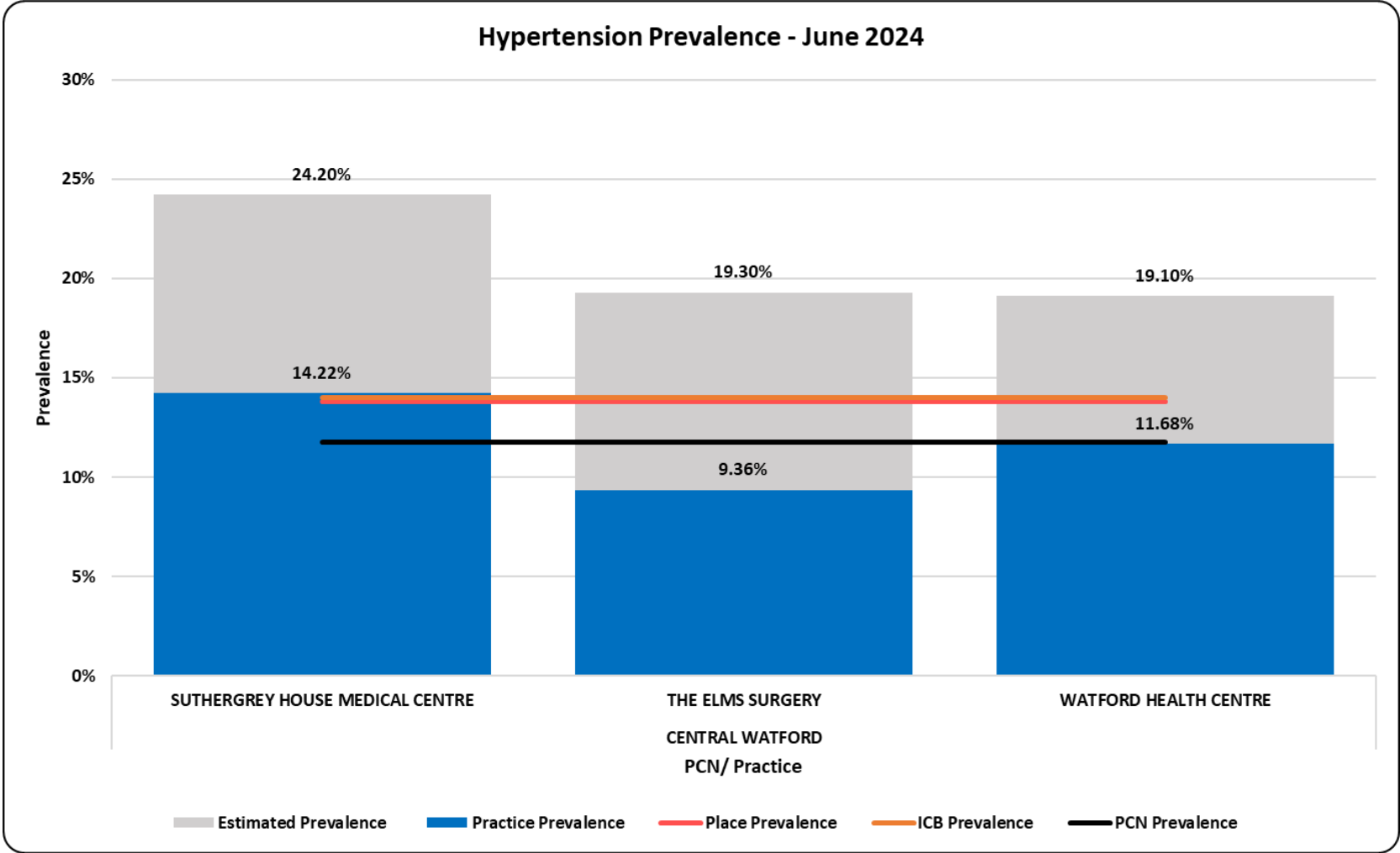
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# 1. Hypertension prevalence

<https://app.ardensmanager.com/>

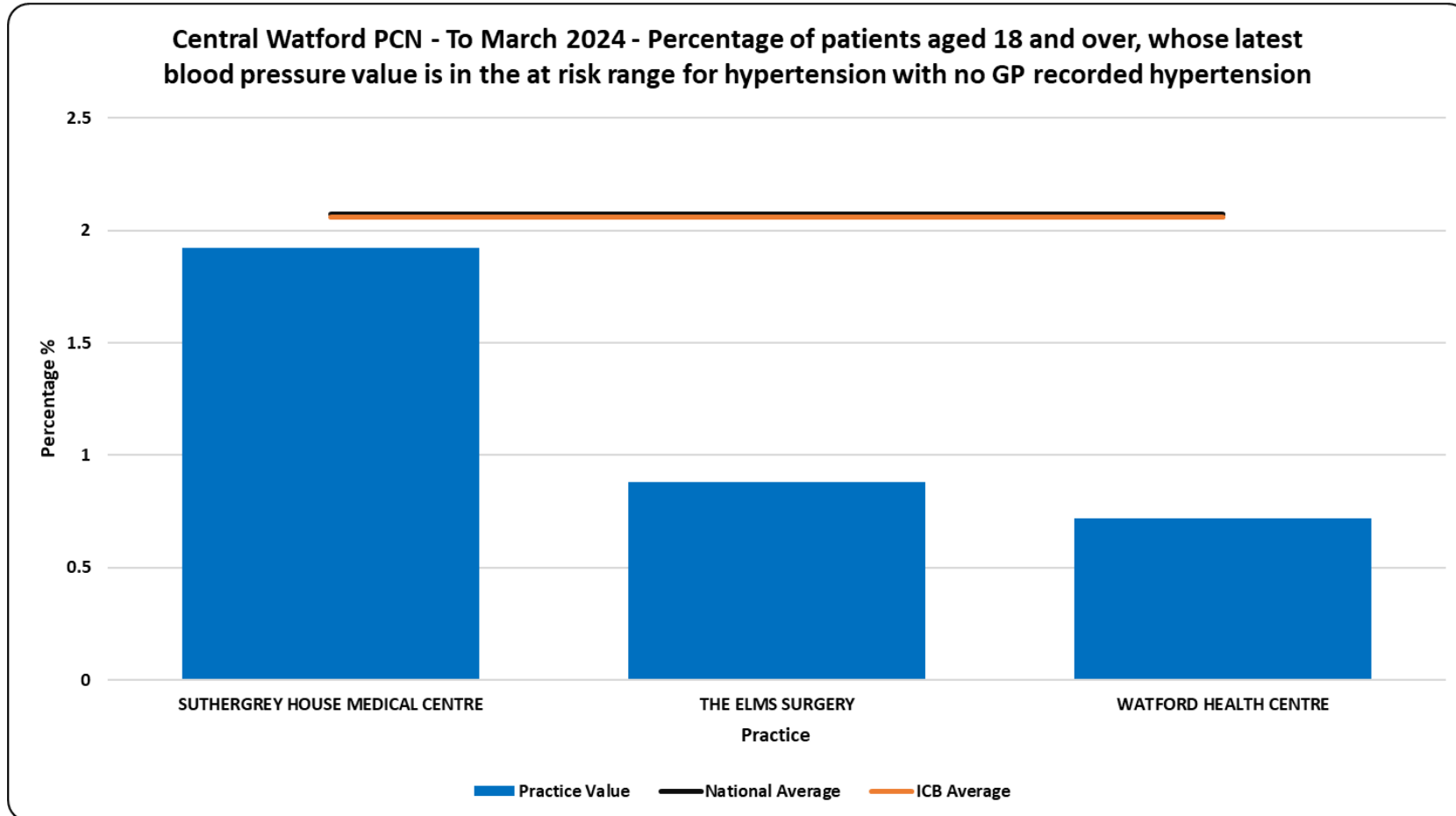


- Hypertension prevalence in Central Watford PCN is 11.8%, which is below the ICB average.
- There remains a significant gap between the observed (QOF) prevalence and the estimated prevalence based on modelling
- **All Practices** should use the Ardens Manager case finder to review likely miscoded cases  
<https://app.ardensmanager.com/>
- We also recommend that practices undertake proactive case finding to increase hypertension prevalence
- See the [tools and resources](#) section for further support





## 2. Uncoded hypertension



Source: CVD Prevent, NHS Digital.

Practice	Percentage & No. of Patients in Cohort
SUTHERGREY HOUSE MEDICAL CENTRE	1.92%, or 145 patients
THE ELMS SURGERY	0.88%, or 60 patients
WATFORD HEALTH CENTRE	0.72%, or 115 patients

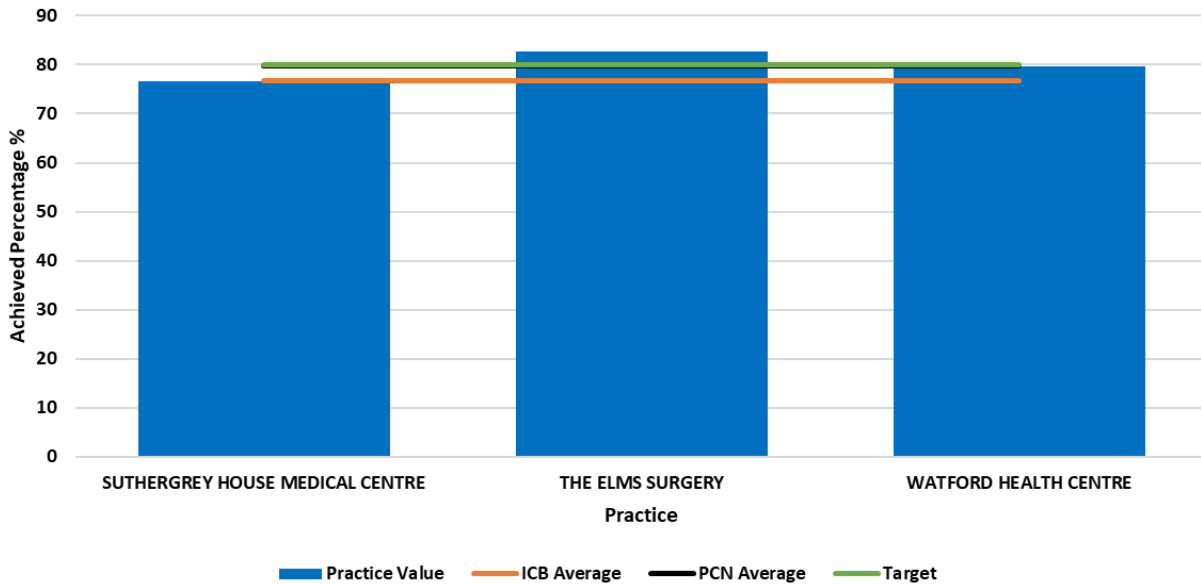
These data show the proportion of patients aged 18 or over who are likely to have hypertension but are not currently coded as hypertensive (lower values better, suggesting fewer uncoded patients).

Reviewing and correcting coding for these patients can be a 'quick win' to ensure patients are receiving proper management and to increase prevalence.

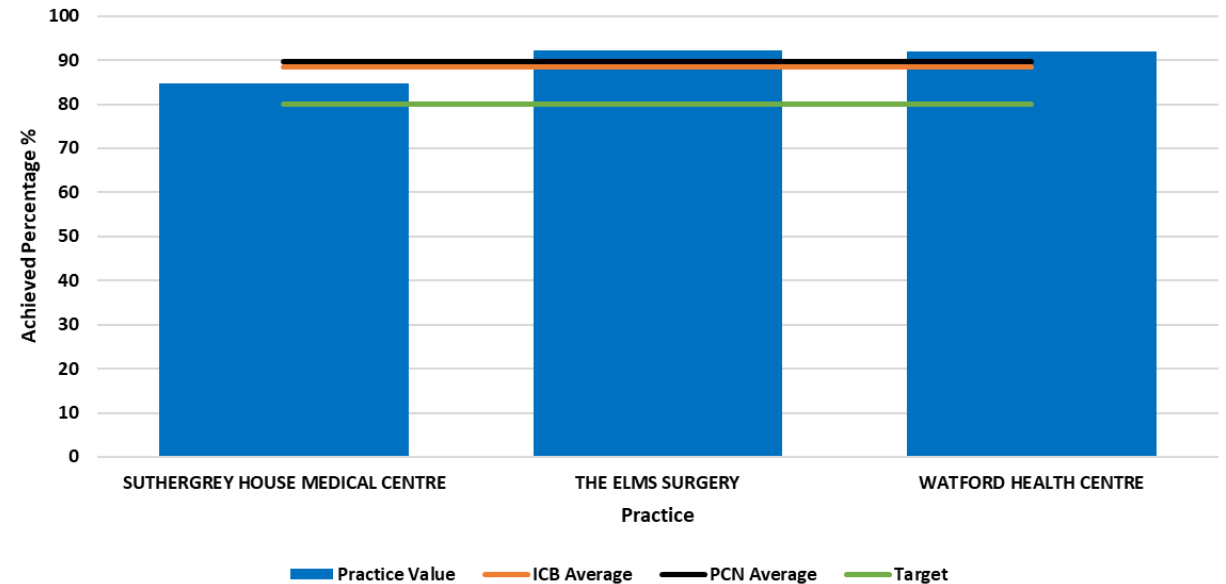
You can use Ardens Manager to run targeted searches for cases that are likely to be hypertension but are currently miscoded – <https://app.ardensmanager.com/me>

### 3. Treatment to threshold

Central Watford PCN - upto 13th June 2024 - Latest Blood Pressure reading if less than or equal to 140/90, for patients under 80 years old



Central Watford PCN - upto 13th June 2024 - Latest Blood Pressure reading if less than 150/90, for patients over 80 years old



These graphs show the proportion of patients with diagnosed hypertension whose blood pressure is within recommended thresholds (treatment to threshold).

In your PCN treatment to threshold is 79.7% for those under 80, and 89.7% for those over 80.

This is above the ICB average, and very close to the national target of 80% for those under 80.

You can use the UCL Partners risk stratification tools in Ardens manager to support prioritisation of those above threshold– <https://app.ardensmanager.com/me>



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## Support and resources

1. Enhanced Commissioning Framework
2. Working with Community Pharmacy
3. Identifying miscoded patients
4. Risk stratification and targeting
5. Raising patient awareness
6. Webinars and training
7. Local case studies
8. Checklist of ideas for action



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# 1. Enhanced Commissioning Framework

## Reducing Variation in disease prevalence

### Appendix 4 – Disease Detection Practice Plan

Consider making hypertension a priority for disease detection in your Enhanced Commissioning Framework submission

ECF Disease Detection Plans to be submitted by 30 June 2024.

Practice details	
Practice name	
Primary Care Network	
Name and Title of person/people completing the template	
Will the practice work with other practices (PCN/locality/other)	
If yes, which practices will work	

REVIEW OF 23/24 PLAN	
	Asthma COPD on-diabetic hyperglycaem Diabetes AF heart failure Dementia chronic Kidney diseases Other
Please confirm the area of focus in 23/24	
	If other, please provide details:
Review of 23/24 Plan - including summary of outcome versus ambition e.g. how many new diagnoses?	

Identifying local opportunities 24/25	
Have you reviewed data on disease prevalence within the practice?	The ICB has PCN PHM packs which can be accessed via the ICB website Primary Care Network packs - Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care System <a href="#">Link here</a>
	Asthma COPD on-diabetic hyperglycaem Diabetes AF heart failure Dementia chronic Kidney diseases Other
Which diseases have been identified as areas where there is opportunity to improve detection?	If other, please provide details: <i>Please note that practices receive funding to improve disease detection through other routes (e.g. other sections of the ECF or national contracts) and will not be eligible for this component of the ECF.</i>
Are there any target groups within the local population where disease detection is lower than expected? (e.g. people from higher levels of deprivation, people from minority ethnic groups)	<i>Please list any demographic groups that the practice has identified as a priority and how these have been identified. Please provide any detail on actions that will support targeting this/these group(s).</i>



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## 2. Identifying miscoded patients

- You can use the QOF Case Finder clinical reports on Ardens Manager to identify patients who may have not had a hypertension diagnosis coded correctly
- They can be accessed at Ardens Manager <https://app.ardensmanager.com/> via Contracts > QOF 2024-25 > Case finder
- There are five case finder reports related to hypertension:
  - ?HTN as h/o HTN or review/monitoring/plan
  - ?HTN as ABPM, HBPM or 24hr BP reading >135/85
  - ?HTN as on antihypertensives + latest BP >140/90
  - ?HTN as resolved but on antihypertensives



age of 12-18m old

Show all (156)



### Case Finder

?HTN as h/o HTN or review/monitoring/plan



?Learning disability as disorder with possible learning disability



?Depression as repeat antidepressants >3m (+ no anxiety)



?HTN as ABPM, HBPM or 24hr BP reading >135/85



?Cancer as h/o cancer or review/monitoring/plan



?Depression as h/o depression or review/monitoring



?CKD 3-5 as eGFR <60 (on 2 occasions in last 3yrs)



?HTN as on antihypertensives + latest BP >140/90



### 3. Risk stratification and targeting

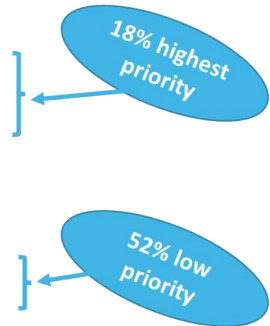
- UCL Partners has created a suite of materials to support practices to risk stratify their patients
- This enables work to be prioritised according to the highest risk patients
- The tools can be accessed here: [Search and risk stratification tools – UCLPartners](#)
- Ardens Manager have created searches to identify these groups. These can be accessed via: <https://app.ardensmanager.com/>

#### Example search and stratification (London Borough)

##### Borough level searches

Total Population: ~446,000  
Hypertension: 40,155

Priority Group	Definition	No. of patients	%
<b>PRIORITY 1</b>	Clinic BP $\geq$ 180/120mmHg	541	1%
<b>PRIORITY 2a</b>	Clinic BP $\geq$ 160/100mmHg	2,756	7%
<b>PRIORITY 2b</b>	Clinic BP $\geq$ 140/90mmHg and BAME + additional CV risk factor	3,827	10%
<b>Priority 2c</b>	No BP reading in last 18 months	5,902	15%
<b>Priority 3a</b>	Clinic BP $\geq$ 140/90mmHgBP if BAME or CVD, CKD, diabetes	3,818	10%
<b>Priority 3b</b>	BP $\geq$ 140/90mmHg - all other patients	2,347	6%
<b>Priority 4a</b>	BP < 140/90mmHg (under 80 years)	18,013	45%
<b>Priority 4b</b>	BP < 150/90mmHg (80 years and over)	2,951	7%



## 4. Webinars to share good practice and approaches

The following webinars and training contain useful support on how to approach hypertension:

- [UCL Partners Proactive Care Framework for Hypertension](#) – delivered to HWE ICB August 2023
- How I achieved the QOF indicators in 6 months:. How to take general practice hypertension management from one of the lowest performing to the highest performing in the country – delivered to Eastern AHSN 20/09/2023 **Bitesize - How I achieved the QoF indicators in 6 months - hypertension on Vimeo**
- [Hypertension in primary care: transforming the prevention of cardiovascular disease](#) with Dr Matt Kearney, Dr Max Hickman, Dr John Ford and an excellent patient story from Godwin Daudu covering topics related to optimising hypertension management in primary care – recorded June 2023
- [East Anglian CV Seminar Series – Still the biggest killer](#) with Professor Ian Wilkinson provides an in-depth overview of hypertension diagnosis and management - recorded September 2021



## 5. Engaging with Community Pharmacy

Community pharmacies can support GP practices in the detection of HTN.

### What they offer

- GP practices can refer any patient over 18 for a BP or an ABPM check at a community pharmacy that has registered to provide the advanced hypertension case finding service. Participating practices can be found here: [Find a pharmacy that offers free blood pressure checks - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

### Referrals and pathways

- The referral can be made using nhs.net email, Ardens template or via EMIS (EMIS is activated for Hertsmere and Dacorum only as a pilot) or GP practice sends a text message to a patient to attend a local pharmacy of their choice that is registered for the service. Results are emailed back to the GP
- The specification for the service, including the recommended care pathway is here [Advanced service specification: NHS community pharmacy hypertension case-finding advanced service \(NHS community pharmacy blood pressure check service\) \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)
- The updated HWE ICB hypertension pathway is here [download \(hweclinicalguidance.nhs.uk\)](#)

### Benefits

- Enhance patient care, potential to reduce workload and improve efficiency and income by enabling GP Practices to:
  - Use CP readings for QOF/IIF/DNA
  - Refer to CP to support ABPM waiting lists/ABPM LES
  - Refer for routine BP checks (and so decrease number of appts for BP checks by HCAs)
  - Refer as part of BP follow-ups required in clinic or discharge letters from secondary care

## 6. Raising patient awareness



You may feel healthy and strong,  
but **high blood pressure has no symptoms.**  
If left untreated, it can cause a heart attack or stroke.



Find a pharmacy for a free blood pressure check.  
[hertsandwestessex.ics.nhs.uk/bp](https://hertsandwestessex.ics.nhs.uk/bp)  
or scan the QR code.

- The ICB has created a suite of resources to raise patient awareness of hypertension and where to get blood pressure checked
- All resources include a QR code that takes patients to a webpage of information about hypertension [High blood pressure - Herts and West Essex ICS](#), including a postcode finder for participating community pharmacies, how to take BP at home and lifestyle changes
- Freely downloadable resources are here [Campaign resources - Herts and West Essex ICS](#) and include:
  - Posters
  - Digital screens
  - Social media animations
  - Screensavers
  - Email banners
- For hard copies of any materials please email [hweicbenh.communications@nhs.net](mailto:hweicbenh.communications@nhs.net)

## 7. Local case study – The Maples GP Practice, ENH – increase in hypertension detection

### Baseline position

- Hypertension detection at this Practice was below the ICB average (49.6% vs 50.8%)

### What the Practice did

- Close working with community pharmacy
- Sending out social media posts raising awareness of hypertension and how to send in readings (Facebook)
- Use of Accurx, including sending video from one of the GPs about importance of blood pressure checking
- Loaning home blood pressure monitors
- Practice nurses taking BP readings
- Reception blood pressure monitor
- Receptionists trained to support people to take readings

### Impact

- - Detection increased to 53.7% in March 2024 (Source: BI)
- -This is above PCN and ICB averages.

“It has taken a lot of work from everyone – a multi-faceted approach” (Practice Manager)

## 8. Checklist of actions on hypertension

1. **Review the NICE Guidance:** to re-familiarise yourself with [treatment guidelines for HTN management](#)
2. **Use shared decision-making with patients** to help address patient concerns and increase ownership of healthcare. Use the NICE [hypertension shared decision aid](#).
3. **Use the shared learning database** to see [examples of how services elsewhere have worked](#) to improve their care and meet the guidelines
4. **Track your Practice's progress** by visiting the updated [CVD PREVENT](#) dashboard (updated quarterly, and viewable by region, ICB, PCN and practice) OR run your report and upload to Ardens Manager
5. **Refresh all practice GPs on the current treatment guidelines**
6. **Use the NICE baseline audit tool**
7. **Review records to** identify the cohort of patients documented BP over the target thresholds
8. **Create an action plan** to review identified patients at risk
9. **Review current call/recall procedures**
10. **Offer waiting room BP measurements**
11. **Work with local services** to create opportunities to measure BP in the community (e.g. Pharmacies)
12. **Use patient decision aids** to help patients understand the importance of medication
13. **Use motivational interviewing** to help patients manage their hypertension



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Please contact your Primary Care  
Coordinator or Clinical Lead if you  
have further questions



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