

GPNET-0



FACTSHEET #1

AUGUST 2024

This factsheet produced by the NIHR-funded GPNET-0 study team is to share key evidence as it emerges. It includes links to online resources that are relevant to the issue concerned. For information about the study and the work that we are doing, visit [our webpage](#).

NHS and Climate change

- The NHS contributes 25% to all public sector carbon emissions.
- Primary care is responsible for around 23% of NHS emissions through direct care delivery, staff and patient travel, and other related services.
- The NHS is the world's first health service to commit to reaching carbon net zero.

GPNET-0 study aims

- To understand how general practice is implementing decarbonisation actions to help achieve a net zero NHS.
- To generate actionable recommendations on how to support and accelerate the implementation and sustainability of actions to decarbonise general practice to help achieve a net zero NHS.

Initial findings

Key issues that are emerging as influencing how general practice is addressing the need to decarbonise include:



01

Organisational culture

Organisational culture may play a key role in shaping decision-making processes related to decarbonisation initiatives.



02

Time

Time and administrative constraints impact on the planning and implementation of decarbonisation actions.



03

Practice setting

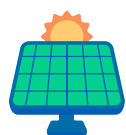
The practice's setting may impact patients' and staff capacity to use active modes of transportation.



04

Co-benefits

Co-benefits of initiatives such as cost savings and financial incentives are potentially key drivers of decarbonisation action.



05

Leasing vs owning

Owning as opposed to leasing premises allows practices to adapt a wider range of decarbonisation initiatives.



06

Recycling

Costs associated with recycling services may act as a barrier.



EVIDENCE BASE



Systematic review

To identify the key components of processes, behaviours and activities that support decarbonisation in general practice.

- 15 studies identified, most of which were from the UK (5), Australia (3), and the USA (2), with one each from Germany, France, Switzerland, and Israel.

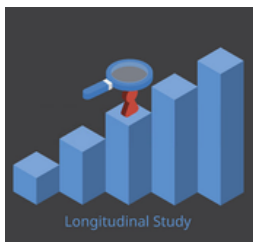


General practice survey

To measure current interest and involvement in decarbonisation activities in general practice, we have surveyed general practice staff in 3 ICB areas (Coventry and Warwickshire; Birmingham and Solihull; South Yorkshire); there were 328 responses from 163 practices (34% of total).

The key findings were:

- 69.8% staff agreed that acting to reduce carbon emissions from primary care was a legitimate part of their role.
- 51.2% staff were unaware of any new or additional decarbonisation actions that their general practice is considering.
- 86.6% staff felt that they lacked sufficient training and resources to undertake decarbonisation initiatives.



12-month longitudinal study

- 12 practices with varied characteristics are being followed over 12 months to learn how they plan and undertake decarbonisation activities.
- 4 practices per ICB
- The practices have a range of characteristics: list size and number of GPs in the practice, level of deprivation, % of patients from an ethnic minority group, location (rural, semi-rural, urban), practice engagement with decarbonisation activities (low, medium, high), geographical area.
- So far, we have facilitated each practice to produce a Green Action Plan setting that reflects their own ambitions, and to undertake baseline non-clinical carbon calculations.
- We are meeting with each practice on a 3-monthly basis to discover the progress that they have made with implementing their Green Action Plan and to understand what has influenced this.

For more information about the GPNET-0 study, visit the website [here](#).