

For all patients with fast AF, evaluate for underlying cause and treat appropriately: Infection, hyperthyroidism, dehydration, myocardial infarction, COPD, haemorrhage, medication error, poisoning

## Anti-arrhythmics - cautions & contra-indications:

All may be negatively inotropic, especially in combination. Check BNF for drug interactions

Amiodarone: Sino-atrial block and conduction disturbances, severe hypotension, thyroid disease, CCF, pregnancy & breast-feeding.

Flecainide: Atrial flutter, CCF, structural heart disease, recent MI

B-blockers: asthma / COPD, uncontrolled heart failure, sick sinus syndrome, heart block, hypotension, severe peripheral vascular disease

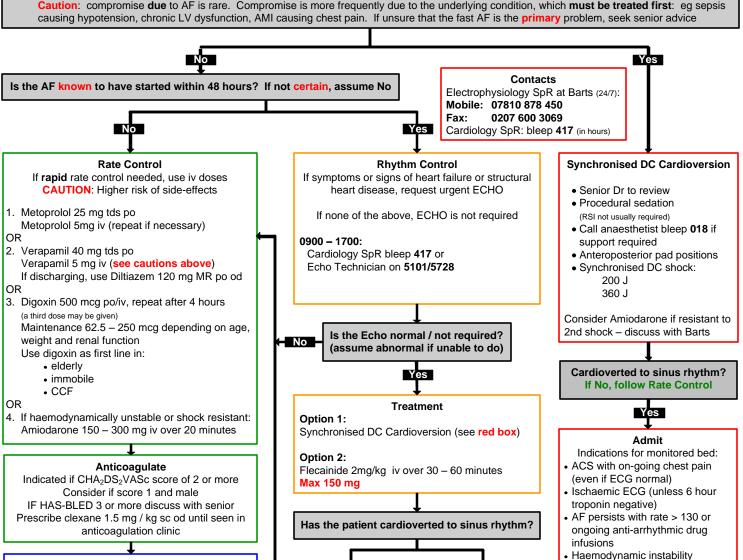
Ca channel blockers: heart failure, hypotension, sick sinus syndrome, heart block, AF with WPW, VT, pregnancy & breast-feeding

Digoxin: heart block, WPW, VT

Investigations: FBC, VBG (all), TFT, LFT, CXR (if new AF), additional tests if condition requires

### Are there signs of haemodynamic compromise DUE to the AF?

Caution: compromise due to AF is rare. Compromise is more frequently due to the underlying condition, which must be treated first: eg sepsis



## Discharge Criteria:

No haemodynamic compromise Heart rate < 110 for 2 hours

If first presentation, request Holter monitor & ECHO: Fax referral form to ?? Rapid access heart rhythm clinic form and ECG to be faxed to 0203 594 5700

Give patient copy of letter & ECG

Anticoagulant Clinic follow-up if needed: Refer to ambulatory care by contacting medical SPR and putting copy of notes into ambulatory care folder in reception.

Advise patient to attend ambulatory care the next day.

# CHA<sub>2</sub>DS<sub>2</sub>VASc Score

C = history of CCF H = history of hypertension A = Age 75 years or more 2 D = Diabetes Mellitus S = History of stroke or TIA V = Vascular disease A = Age 65 - 741

S = Sex (female)

## **HAS-BLED**

· GCS less than 15 post sedation

H = history of hypertension A = Abnormal renal function A = Abnormal liver function S = StrokeB = Bleeding L = Labile INR E = Elderly (> 65)D = Drugs / Alcohol

Acute Atrial Fibrillation



Lead Author

Consultant Emergency Medicine

Co-Authors / Collaborators

Consultant Cardiologists Anticoagulation Nurses

Reference Documents

Management of Atrial Fibrillation, NICE CG180, June 2014 British National Formulary