



**Service Priorities and Programmes**  
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**To explore physicians' barriers to optimal anticoagulation in atrial fibrillation in HK public primary care**

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**Introduction**

Optimal anticoagulation in patients with atrial fibrillation (AF) is the most important modifiable factor to reduce stroke risk. It was not employed as common as suggested by international guidelines.

**Objectives**

this study sought to explore physicians' barriers to optimal anticoagulation in AF in Hong Kong (HK) public primary care.

**Methodology**

qualitative study based on in depth person on person interviews conducted from May to July in 2017.

Subjects: purposeful sample of experienced family physicians working in HK Government Outpatient Clinic (GOPC) with diverse family medicine trainings.

Methods: in depth person on person semistructured interviews were performed to identify barriers to optimal anticoagulation by the principal investigator. The generated narrative data was analyzed by 3 independent researchers using constant comparative method. Interviews were conducted until thematic saturation occurred.

**Result**

Total 15 physicians participated this study, The years of clinical experience of our sample ranged from 5- 16 years with mean 10.2 year and median 12 year. 12 physicians in our sample were FHKCFP and 6 of them were also fellows of Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (Family Medicine) (FHKAM (FM)). The remaining 3 physicians were in family medicine training.3 unifying and recurrent themes were identified and they were: unfavourable perception to anticoagulants, AF related resources insufficiency and self-perceived knowledge and experience inadequacy in AF.