

NICE recommends pulsed field ablation for atrial fibrillation patients in the NHS

Positive guidance for the Boston Scientific FARAPULSE™ Pulsed Field Ablation System marks expansion of minimally invasive treatment options for growing number of atrial fibrillation patients in the UK.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, United Kingdom, 10 July 2025 – Boston Scientific Corporation (NYSE: BSX) today welcomed guidance¹ supporting the use of pulsed field ablation (PFA) for the treatment of atrial fibrillation (AF) from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), which provides evidence-based recommendations to improve health and social care in the National Health Service (NHS) in England and Wales. NICE reviewed the safety and efficacy evidence of PFA, including the Boston Scientific FARAPULSE™ Pulsed Field Ablation (PFA) System².

AF is the most common sustained cardiac arrhythmia, estimated to affect approximately 2% of adults in the UK³, and is thought to have risen significantly over the past decade (up to 50%).⁴ The often asymptomatic condition can go untreated and increases the risk of stroke, heart failure and all-cause mortality,⁵ placing a significant burden on the NHS. As the population ages, the prevalence of AF is expected to rise considerably, underscoring the importance of innovative and effective treatment options.

A study published in BMJ Open⁶ highlights that the FARAPULSE PFA System is not only clinically effective but also a cost-saving option for the NHS compared to standard cryoablation. The study, which scrutinised various parameters including procedure costs and complication rates, found that over a 12-month period, the total average cost per patient for PFA was -3% (-£343) less than those who received treatment with cryoablation.

“AF is estimated to directly cost the NHS between £1.4- £2.5 billion annually⁷. With poorer AF outcomes for those from lower socioeconomic and different minority groups⁸, PFA can improve health equity which is a priority for the NHS. Compared to some other ablation energy sources (i.e. cryoablation), patients treated with PFA have a lower residual burden of atrial fibrillation which is well-known and linked to improved quality of life and lower health care utilisation,” said Angelo Auricchio, M.D., Ph. D., chief medical officer, Rhythm Management, Boston Scientific, Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA). “The FARAPULSE PFA System can help enable the NHS to achieve its shift from treatment to prevention under its 10-year Health Plan by addressing the risk of stroke and other complications.”

Boston Scientific's FARAPULSE™ PFA System became the first commercialised cardiac PFA technology in Europe after receiving CE mark in 2021. It delivers controlled pulses of electric fields to ablate cardiac tissue, offering a promising alternative to traditional thermal ablation methods.

“The shorter procedure time of pulsed field ablation can help reduce waiting lists while addressing the significantly higher stroke and heart failure risk associated with atrial fibrillation,” said Trudie Lobban, MBE, CEO and Founder, Arrhythmia Alliance, a coalition of patients and medical groups that promotes timely and effective diagnosis and treatment of arrhythmias. “It is a win-win situation for both patients and the NHS – saving time, saving costs and importantly saving lives.”

NICE advised that PFA can be used as an option to treat AF, provided that standard arrangements are in place for clinical governance, consent, and audit. NICE guidance is available [here](#).

About Boston Scientific

Boston Scientific transforms lives through innovative medical technologies that improve the health of patients around the world. As a global medical technology leader for more than 45 years, we advance science for life by providing a broad range of high-performance solutions that address unmet patient needs and reduce the cost of healthcare. Our portfolio of devices and therapies helps physicians diagnose and treat complex cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive, oncological, neurological and urological diseases and conditions. Learn more at www.bostonscientific.eu and connect on [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#), formerly Twitter.

Media Contact:

Uchenna Izundu

Media Relations

EMEA.MediaRelations@bsci.com

Investor Relations:

Lauren Tengler

Investor Relations

BSXInvestorRelations@bsci.com

001 (508) 683-5450

References

1. National Institute for Care and Excellence - <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/IPG806>
2. [FARAPULSE - Pulsed Field Ablation System - Boston Scientific](#)
3. British Heart Foundation, Heart and Circulatory Disease Statistics 2023, pg 86, table 2.8. <https://www.bhf.org.uk/-/media/files/for-professionals/research/heart-statistics/bhf-statistics-compendium-2023.pdf>
4. Hindricks G, Potpara T, Dagres N, et al. *2020 ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of atrial fibrillation developed in collaboration with the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery (EACTS)*. **European Heart Journal**, Volume 42, Issue 5, 1 February 2021, Pages 373–498. <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurheartj/ehaa612>
5. British Heart Foundation, Heart and Circulatory Disease Statistics 2023, pg 86, table 2.8. <https://www.bhf.org.uk/-/media/files/for-professionals/research/heart-statistics/bhf-statistics-compendium-2023.pdf>
6. Duxbury C, Begley DA, Heck PM. Pulsed field ablation with the pentaspline catheter compared with cryoablation for the treatment of paroxysmal atrial fibrillation in the UK NHS: a cost-comparison analysis. *BMJ Open*. 2024;14(5):e079881. <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/14/5/e079881>
7. [Burdett, P \(2022\) Atrial fibrillation in the UK: predicting costs of an emerging epidemic recognizing and forecasting the cost drivers of atrial fibrillation-related costs](#)
8. Kotalczyka, A (2021), Disparities in atrial fibrillation: a call for holistic care, *The Lancet Regional Health—European Heart Journal*

<https://news.bostonscientific.eu/nice-recommends-pulsed-field-ablation-for-atrial-fibrillation-patients-in-the-nhs>