

## Summary of Cardiovascular Committee Meeting

### Ad Hoc Review of Measure #0018

### August 17, 2015 2:00-3:00pm ET

#### Purpose

The Cardiovascular Standing Committee met via public webinar for an ad hoc review of the evidence for *Measure # 0018: Controlling High Blood Pressure (CBP)* [National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)]. The Committee was charged with reviewing the revised specifications and the evidence supporting these changes in order to determine whether the endorsement of the measure should be maintained.

#### Background

The annual update of measure #0018 (initial endorsement 2009; endorsement maintained 2012) that was submitted by the developer included changes to the measure population (age and diagnosis) and blood pressure targets for the numerator. These changes were deemed to be material changes and triggered an ad hoc review by NQF. The NQF [Ad Hoc Review Policy](#), describes that *ad hoc*, or off- cycle reviews, are triggered by substantive or material changes to the measure resulting from modifications to the measure specifications including, measure population (e.g., age, diagnosis), what is being measured (e.g., blood pressure), data source(s) (e.g., claims, registry), level(s) of analysis (e.g., clinician, facility) or care setting (e.g., nursing home, hospital).

#### Overview of Changes to the Measure

This measure assesses the percentage of patients 18 – 85 years of age diagnosed with hypertension (HTN) whose blood pressure was adequately controlled during the measurement year. For the currently endorsed measure, adequate control is defined as <140/90 for all populations. For the ad hoc review, adequate control is defined for 3 different population targets:

- Patients 18–59 years of age whose blood pressure was <140/90 mm Hg
- Patients 60–85 years of age with a diagnosis of diabetes whose blood pressure was <140/90 mm Hg
- Patients 60–85 years of age without a diagnosis of diabetes whose blood pressure was <150/90 mm Hg

Updates to the measure evidence and specifications were provided by the developer and were initiated by the release of the [2014 Evidence-Based Guideline for the Management of High Blood Pressure in Adults. Report from the Panel Members Appointment to the Eighth Joint National Committee \(JNC 8\)](#).

#### Standing Committee Discussion

The Committee reviewed updates to the evidence and specifications provided by the developer, and discussed the measure's use in Million Hearts®, Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS), and Meaningful Use measure programs. The Committee discussed that the grading of the above guideline recommendations are categorized as either strong recommendations or expert opinion. The evidence grades and recommendations from the above mentioned guideline are listed below:

*Grade: Strong Recommendations*

- $\geq 60$  years  $< 150/90$  mm Hg (Recommendation 1)
- 30 through 59 years DBP  $< 90$  mm Hg (Recommendation 2)

*Grade: Expert Opinion*

- $\geq 60$  years SBP  $< 140$  mm Hg, if tolerated (Corollary Recommendation)
- 18 through 29 years DBP  $< 90$  mm Hg (Recommendation 2)
- $< 60$  years SBP  $< 140$  mm Hg (Recommendation 3)
- $\geq 18$  years and diagnosed with chronic kidney disease  $< 140/90$  mm Hg (Recommendation 4)
- $\geq 18$  years and diagnosed with diabetes  $< 140/90$  mm Hg (Recommendation 5)

The Committee also noted that the American Heart Association (AHA)/American College of Cardiology (ACC) hypertension guideline is anticipated in 2016. One Committee member suggested delaying the review until after the release of the pending AHA/ACC guideline. There was discussion of other hypertension guidelines, but these were not submitted by the developer for consideration of the evidence supporting the measure. The developer acknowledged public debate around the evidence supporting the specific blood pressure targets, and that their geriatric measure work group strongly supported the recommendation for non-diabetic patients of one of the four measure workgroups ( $\geq 60$  years  $< 150/90$  mm Hg [Recommendation 1]).

Following this call, the Committee will have the opportunity to submit votes online for their recommendations on the disposition of this measure. The Committee will vote on whether the submitted evidence adequately supports the changes to the measure and meets the NQF evidence criterion; this includes consideration of the quality, quantity and consistency of the evidence. The Committee will also vote on whether the revised measure should be recommended for continued endorsement.

The results of the Committee's vote will be posted for public comment on October 16, 2015 along with the other cardiovascular measures that are currently under review. The Committee recommendations and comments will then be considered by the Consensus Standards Approval Committee (CSAC) and the NQF Board of Directors (BOD).

**NQF Member and Public Comment**

There were no public comments during the web meeting.



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**Committee Attendees:**

Mary George, MD, MSPH, FACS, FAHA, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (co-chair)  
Thomas Kottke, MD, MSPH, HealthPartners (co-chair)  
Sana Al-Khatib, MD, MHS, Duke University Medical Center  
Carol Allred, BA, WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease  
Linda Briggs, DNP, George Washington University, School of Nursing  
Leslie Cho, MD, Cleveland Clinic  
Elizabeth DeLong, PhD, University Medical Center  
Ellen Hillegass, PT, EdD, CCS, FAACVPR, FAPTA, American Physical Therapy Association  
Judd Hollander, MD, FACEP, Thomas Jefferson University  
Thomas James, MD, AmeriHealth Caritas Family of Companies  
Joel Marrs, Pharm.D., FNLA, BCPS (AQ Cardiology), CLS, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Kristi Mitchell, MPH, Avalere Health, LLC  
George Philippides, MD, Newton-Wellesly Hospital  
Jason Spangler, MD, MPH, FACPM, Amgen, Inc.  
Mladen Vidovich, MD, Jesse Brown VA Medical Center

**NQF Staff Attendees:**

Helen Burstin, MD, MPH  
Elisa Munthali, MPH  
Sharon Hibay, RN, DNP  
Melissa Mariñelarena, RN, MPA  
Ashlie Wilbon, MS, MPH, FNP-C  
Karen Johnson, MS, PhD(c)  
Leslie Vicale, MPH  
Laura Ibragimova, MPH

**NCQA Attendees:**

Mary Barton  
Bob Rehm  
Dan Roman  
Tejal Patel  
Jenna Barry  
Renee Ethier