

## Clinical Quality Measures

To reduce the burden of heart attack and stroke in the United States, the Department of Health and Human Services launched Million Hearts®, a national initiative co-led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The goal of this initiative is to prevent one million heart attacks and strokes by 2017 by implementing proven and effective interventions in clinical settings and communities. Million Hearts® brings together communities, health systems, nonprofit organizations, federal agencies, and private-sector partners from across the country to fight heart disease and stroke.

A major emphasis of Million Hearts® is to drive adoption and use of a focused set of impactful clinical quality measures for the ABCS (Aspirin when appropriate, Blood pressure control, Cholesterol management, and Smoking cessation) and align these measures across public and private quality measures reporting initiatives. The list of Million Hearts® ABCS measures is below (Table 1) including their status as a National Quality Forum-endorsed measure and inclusion in the CMS Physician Quality Reporting System and the CMS Medicare Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program.

In addition to their presence in the above-listed measures initiatives, these clinical quality measures can be found throughout other public systems such as the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) Uniform Data System, the CMS Accountable Care Organizations Shared Savings Program, and the CMS Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) Comprehensive Primary Care initiative. By aligning measures for the ABCS across various quality reporting programs, Million Hearts® is helping reduce the reporting burden on clinicians while improving performance on outcomes that matter.

Clinicians and health care systems have an integral role to play in meeting the goals of Million Hearts® by

- Committing to system-wide excellence in the ABCS.
- Focusing teams, technology, and processes to improve performance on the ABCS.
- Measuring and reporting progress on the ABCS within the organization.

By aligning measures for the ABCS across various quality reporting programs, Million Hearts® is helping reduce the reporting burden on clinicians while focusing improvement on outcomes that matter.

**Table 1. Million Hearts® Clinical Quality Measures**

Domain	Measure	National Quality Forum (NQF)	CMS Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS)	CMS Medicare EHR Incentive Program
Aspirin When Appropriate	<b>Ischemic Vascular Disease (IVD): Use of Aspirin or Another Antithrombotic</b> Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older with IVD with documented use of aspirin or other antithrombotic	#0068	#204	CMS164v2
Blood Pressure Screening	<b>Preventive Care and Screening: High Blood Pressure</b> Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older who are screened for high blood pressure AND a recommended follow-up plan is documented based on the current blood pressure readings as indicated	n/a	#317	CMS22v2
Blood Pressure Control	<b>Hypertension (HTN): Controlling High Blood Pressure</b> Percentage of patients aged 18 through 85 years who had a diagnosis of HTN and whose blood pressure was adequately controlled (<140/90) during the measurement year	#0018	#236	CMS165v2
Cholesterol Management	<b>Preventive Care and Screening: Cholesterol—Fasting Low Density Lipoprotein (LDL) Test Performed AND Risk-Stratified Fasting LDL</b> Percentage of patients aged 20 through 79 years who had a fasting LDL test performed and whose risk-stratified fasting LDL is at or below the recommended LDL goal.	n/a	#316	CMS61v3 CMS64v3
Cholesterol Management – Diabetes	<b>Diabetes Mellitus: Low Density Lipoprotein (LDL-C) Control in Diabetes Mellitus</b> Percentage of patients aged 18 through 75 years with diabetes mellitus who had most recent LDL-C level in control (less than 100 mg/dL)	#64	#2	CMS163v2
Cholesterol Management – Ischemic Vascular Disease	<b>Ischemic Vascular Disease (IVD): Complete Lipid Panel and Low Density Lipoprotein (LDL-C) Control</b> Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older with Ischemic Vascular Disease (IVD) who received at least one lipid profile within 12 months and who had most recent LDL-C level in control (less than 100 mg/dL)	#0075	#241	CMS182v3
Smoking Cessation	<b>Preventive Care and Screening: Tobacco Use</b> Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older who were screened about tobacco use one or more times within 24 months and who received cessation counseling intervention if identified as a tobacco user	#0028	#226	CMS138v2