



Controlling Blood Pressure Tip Sheet

What is the CMS Star Rating Program?

CMS uses a five-star quality rating system to measure the experiences Medicare beneficiaries have with their health plan and healthcare system – the Star Rating Program. Health plans are rated on a scale of 1 to 5 stars, with 5 being the highest. These ratings are then published on the Medicare Plan Finder at medicare.gov to help consumers compare health plans more easily.

Measure Description

Weight: 3

This measure shows the percent of plan members aged 18-85 who had a diagnosis of hypertension and whose BP was adequately controlled (<140/90 mm Hg).

Measure Source

- Claims & Chart Review
- 1/1 – 12/31

Stars/Quality Specifications

Eligible patient has had:

- Both a systolic BP <140 mm Hg and diastolic BP of <90 mm Hg on the most recent reading during the measurement year on or after diagnosis of hypertension. Members are diagnosed with hypertension when they have had at least two visits on different dates of service with a reading labeled as hypertension on or between January 1 of the year prior to the measurement year and June 30 of the measurement year.

Strategies for Success

- Encourage patients to check their blood pressure regularly and record their readings.
- Document patient reported blood pressure readings in electronic medical record.
- Advise patients to take blood pressure medications as prescribed.
- If initial blood pressure reading is elevated, blood pressure should be rechecked during the same visit.

Coding and Documentation Tips

Member may be excluded from this measure due to frailty and/or advanced illness codes. Click the following link to review master code list for exclusions: [Exclusion Codes](#)

If you have questions, please contact your provider relations specialist.