

Practice Improvement Plan

Now that you have completed your practice assessment, chart reviews, and sent staff survey requests, it's time to select a practice improvement strategy. Below are three pathways that you can choose from to improve the care of patients diagnosed with hypertension. Within each pathway are several interventions. **To complete this module, you will need to select a minimum of one intervention to implement in your practice - improving the care of your patients with hypertension over a minimum of three and no more than 12 months.**

Implementing team-based, planned visits to improve the delivery system for patients diagnosed with hypertension.

Summary: It is a complicated and time consuming task to give high quality, appropriate care to all of your patients diagnosed with hypertension. By optimizing the involvement of all team members, it is possible to provide high quality care in an efficient and effective manner.

Interventions

- Implementing a planned visit template
- Doing pre-visit planning for patients with hypertension
- Implementing a planned visit workflow that assigns tasks to specific team members

Implementing evidence-based, clinical decision support for the treatment of hypertension

Summary: JNC-8 Guidelines give clear, evidence-based recommendations regarding treatment for hypertension. Either by integrating clinical decision support tools based on these guidelines into your EHR or by having a paper-based algorithm available to clinicians at the point of care, you will work to ensure the use of these guidelines in determining the course of care for your patients diagnosed with hypertension.

Interventions

- Implementing a clinical decision support tool (on paper, electronic, or integrated into an EHR) that guides blood pressure goal setting and documents that goal in the patient's chart
- Implementing a clinical decision support tool (on paper, electronic, or integrated into an EHR) that guides medication selection

Implementing patient self-management support

Summary: While proper medical therapy is important for the care of patients diagnosed with hypertension, it is only with patient education and competent patient self-management techniques that patients can achieve their optimal blood pressure targets.

Interventions

- Developing a physician-lead self-management plan for each patient
- Having a staff member contact patients between appointments to support hypertension self-management
- Utilize culturally appropriate patient education materials that support hypertension self-management
- Utilize hypertension self-management tools that are given to patients at the time of the visit