

Clinical Quality Measures

Million Hearts® is a national initiative that aims to prevent one million heart attacks, strokes, and other acute cardiovascular events over the next five years. This national initiative is co-led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This initiative focuses on reducing the burden of heart attack and stroke in the United States by implementing proven and effective interventions in clinical settings and communities. Million Hearts® brings together community organizations, health systems, nonprofit organizations, state and 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 high-impact 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 national programs. The list of Million Hearts® ABCS measures and secondary measures for cardiac rehabilitation and BMI is below (Table 1) including their status as a National Quality Forum (NQF)-endorsed measure and inclusion in the CMS Quality Payment Program (QPP). The ABCS and secondary Million Hearts measures can be found in the QPP throughout both the Merit-based Incentive Payment System, including the Cardiology, Family Medicine, and Internal Medicine specialty measures groups, and in some Advanced Payment Models like the Comprehensive Primary Care Plus initiative.

In addition to their presence in the above-listed measure initiatives, these clinical quality measures can be found throughout other public systems such as the Health Resources and Service Administration Uniform Data System, the CMS Shared Savings Program, and the CMS Transforming Clinical Practices Initiative. Learn more at the Million Hearts® Clinical Quality Measures Alignment [website](#).

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 national programs, Million Hearts® is helping to reduce the reporting burden on clinicians while focusing improvement on patient outcomes that matter—tobacco cessation services for those trying to quit, blood pressure control, reducing cardiovascular risk through statin and aspirin use, and ultimately preventing heart attacks, strokes, and deaths.

Table 1. Million Hearts® Clinical Quality Measures

Domain	Measure*	National Quality Forum (NQF)	CMS Quality Payment Program – Quality ID	CMS eMeasure ID
Aspirin When Appropriate	Ischemic Vascular Disease (IVD): Use of Aspirin or Another Antiplatelet Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older with IVD with documented use of aspirin or other antithrombotic	0068	204	CMS164
Blood Pressure Control	Hypertension (HTN): Controlling High Blood Pressure 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	CMS165
Cholesterol Management	Statin Therapy for the Prevention and Treatment of Cardiovascular Disease Percentage patients considered at high risk of cardiovascular events who were prescribed or were on statin therapy during the measurement period	n/a	438	CMS347
Smoking Cessation	Preventive Care and Screening: Tobacco Use: Screening and Cessation Intervention: a. Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older who were screened for tobacco use one or more times within 24 months #b. Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older who were for screened for tobacco use and identified as a tobacco user who received tobacco cessation intervention c. Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older who were screened for tobacco use one or more times within 24 months AND who received cessation counseling intervention if identified as a tobacco user	0028	226	CMS138
Cardiac Rehab	Cardiac Rehabilitation Patient Referral from an Outpatient Setting Percentage of eligible patients evaluated in an outpatient setting who are referred to an outpatient cardiac rehabilitation/secondary prevention program	0643	243	n/a
	Cardiac Rehabilitation Patient Referral from an Inpatient Setting Percentage of eligible patients admitted to a hospital who are referred to an early outpatient cardiac rehabilitation/secondary prevention program	0642	n/a	n/a
Body Mass Index (BMI)	Preventive Care and Screening: Body Mass Index (BMI) Screening and Follow-Up Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older with a documented BMI and follow-up plan when appropriate	0421	128	CMS69

* See official measure specifications for full definitions

Denotes measure component of interest