

HYPERTENSION MANAGEMENT

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PRIMARY GOALS

The primary goals of the Hypertension Management enhancement are:

1. To help patients manage their blood pressure medications
2. To help patients achieve blood pressure targets as per the Canadian Hypertension Guidelines.

DESCRIPTION OF ENHANCEMENT

The Hypertension Management enhancement involves the generation of reports or printouts using the practice EMR. These reports are used to identify all patients who are 65 years of age and older and had blood pressure readings greater than 150/90 mmHg at their last visit. Separate lists are generated for each physician in the practice. The physicians review these lists and then refer patients who they feel would benefit to the pharmacist for a medication review by checking off the appropriate box listed beside the patients' names. The patients are then called by the pharmacist or receptionist to schedule an appointment with the pharmacist.

POTENTIAL BARRIERS

1. As this enhancement requires an EMR to identify patients with a certain clinical parameter (blood pressure > 150/90 mmHg), practice sites without EMRs or those who have EMRs that cannot perform this function will have difficulty.
2. Not all physicians who are provided with these lists will refer patients to the pharmacist for a medication review.
3. Nurse assistance may be required by the pharmacist in order for blood pressure checks to be performed at the pharmacist medication reviews.

POTENTIAL FACILITATORS

1. If the Office Manager or Head Physician is approached with the idea first, this can increase the ease with which the enhancement is implemented into the practice site.
2. The practice enhancement may be implemented more easily if it is piloted with only one physician in the beginning.
3. Patients may be more receptive to scheduling a medication review with the pharmacist if their physician speaks to them before they receive a call from the pharmacist.
4. If the pharmacist has a BP True Machine with them during the medication reviews, no assistance will be required from a nurse to obtain patient blood pressure values.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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