



Important changes for the 2011 Recognizing Excellence Initiative

This bulletin is to advise you of updates to the 2011 Aware Addendum for Recognizing Excellence Initiative (Addendum). Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (Blue Cross) uses Minnesota Community Measurement (MNCM) specifications and results for specific Recognizing Excellence Measures. These specific Measures, as well as the detailed measurement components, are identified in Attachment A of the Addendum. The following updates will be made to Attachment A of the Addendum to better align with the MNCM specifications.

The blood pressure measure for the cardiology specialty has been updated to include a single reference in response to the announcement made by MNCM regarding changes to the measurement requirements. On March 9, 2011, MNCM's Measurement and Reporting Committee (MARC) met to review a change to the Optimal Vascular Care (OVC) measure. MARC approved changing the OVC Blood Pressure (BP) target for 2012 report year (2011 dates of service) to less than 140/90 mmHg for all ischemic vascular disease (IVD) patients regardless of diabetes co-morbidity. This decision was in response to the Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI) releasing an update on the guidelines for Hypertension Diagnosis and Treatment last November (2010, Third Edition) which stated:

“A reappraisal of evidence from randomized trials in patients with chronic heart disease or previous stroke does not show consistent evidence that cardiovascular disease risk is further reduced by more intensive lowering of BP (Zanchetti, 2009). Based on current evidence, pursuing BP goals lower than 140/90 should be considered on an individual basis based on clinical judgment and patient preference.”

Changing the BP portion of this measure ensures we continue to align with MNCM and can use their data for our measurement and reduces the reporting burden on the provider.

Description of Measure for Cardiovascular Disease

The updated Description of Measure for Cardiovascular Disease is as follows:

The percentage of patients with Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) between the ages of 18 and 75 meeting all of the component measures listed below:

- CVD patients most recent LDL is less than 100
- Blood Pressure < 140/90 for all patients with IVD regardless of diabetes co-morbidity
- CVD patients documented status as tobacco free
- CVD patients with documentation of daily aspirin use

Reported through MNCM

Body Mass Index Description of Measure

The "Note" on the Body Mass Index (BMI) Description of Measure has been corrected to remove pediatric specialties from the list of specialties that are not required to report their data for this measure. Please ensure you include your pediatric population in your BMI measurement. The corrected Description of Measure for BMI is as follows:

BMI measure consisting of both:

- Documentation of an annual Body Mass Index (BMI) calculation (BMI value or percentile) for 90 percent of patients ages 2 and older, at their last preventive visit.
- For patients with elevated BMI or pediatric patients above the 85th percentile, the percentage of patients with documentation of assistance/action plan.

Note: This measure does not apply to behavioral health, cardiology or spinal surgery specialties.

Questions?

If you have questions relating to these program changes, please contact Tracy Krech at **(651) 662-3627** or toll free at **1-888-878-0139 ext. 23627**.