

Bulletin



November 11, 2010

Important changes for the 2010 Recognizing Excellence Initiative

This bulletin is to advise you of changes Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (Blue Cross) will be instituting for administration of the 2010 Recognizing Excellence Initiative.

Blue Cross uses Minnesota Community Measurement (MNCM) measurement 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 2010 Aware Addendum for Recognizing Excellence Initiative (Addendum).

In response to significant findings in the recently released ACCORD* study, clinical management recommendations have changed since the 2010 Recognizing Excellence Performance Targets were established for the Optimal Diabetes Care Composite and Optimal Vascular Care Composite measures (outlined in Attachment A of the Addendum). It is therefore necessary to adjust the previously established performance target for both of these measures to align with the new clinic management recommendations.

Specifically, new clinical management recommendations support a blood pressure goal of 140/90 mmHG for diabetic patients. MNCM will be using the 140/90 mmHG blood pressure value in the calculation of the Optimal Diabetes Care Composite and Optimal Vascular Composite measures. (Please note that the 140/90 mmHG blood pressure value is used in the optimal vascular care measure when the patient has been diagnosed with diabetes and ischemic vascular disease (IVD). The previous goal of 130/80 mmHG has not changed for non-diabetic patients with IVD.)

Because the performance target for the Recognizing Excellence Initiative Optimal Diabetes Care Composite and Optimal Vascular Care Composite measures were based on a blood pressure goal of 130/80mmHG for all patients, Blue Cross will be adjusting the program performance targets to align with the new clinical management recommendations as follows:

Performance measure	Original performance target	Revised performance target
Optimal Diabetes Care Composite	30 percent	37 percent
Optimal Vascular Care Composite	40 percent	45 percent

Questions?

We do not anticipate that these changes in the performance targets will adversely impact providers. If you have questions relating to these program changes, please contact Mary Jo Stelzner at **(651) 662-6230** or toll free at **1-888-878-0139 ext. 26230**.

* ACCORD Study Group, The effects of intensive blood pressure control in type 2 diabetes mellitus. N Engl J Med 2010;362:1575-85. (Class A Recommendation)