

National Diabetes Audit: Care processes and treatment targets

A change to the Blood pressure target to be consistent with the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF)

Historically there were two Blood Pressure (BP) measures reported in the audit report, the first looked at the result of the patient's blood pressure test and is a flat measure that the patients BP should be less than $\frac{140}{80}$.

The second measure is the actual BP target as defined by National Institute of Clinical Excellence, this takes into account some complications which the patient may be suffering with, and these are eye, kidney or vascular disease (EKV). For patients with one or more of these complications the target differs and the patients BP should be less than $\frac{130}{80}$ and for those without these complications the patients BP should be less than $\frac{140}{80}$.

The audit has agreed a change to look to bring the reporting in line with the QOF indicators relating to diabetes (DM30 and DM31). This will mean moving from "less than" to "less than or equal to". Table 1 show the impact of these changes for the audit years 2009-10 to 2011-12.

Table 1: The Blood Pressure measures

Audit Year	Blood pressure measure of $< \frac{140}{80}$	Blood pressure target of $< \frac{140}{80}$ applied to those patients without recorded EKV and blood pressure target of $< \frac{130}{80}$ applied to those patients with recorded EKV	Proposed Blood pressure measure of $\leq \frac{140}{80}$	Proposed Blood pressure target of $\leq \frac{140}{80}$ applied to those patients without recorded EKV and blood pressure target of $\leq \frac{130}{80}$ applied to those patients with recorded EKV
2009-10	43.9%	35.2%	61.4%	50.4%
2010-11	44.6%	36.2%	62.0%	51.3%
2011-12	48.1%	38.8%	67.1%	55.2%

The audit looks at achievement in meeting all three NICE recommended treatment targets for glucose, blood pressure and serum cholesterol levels. Therefore, these changes to the BP target will also impact on the overall treatment targets measure. This impact can be shown in the first two columns of table 2.

The third column of table 2 shows the impact of only including the BP target of $\leq \frac{140}{80}$, without taking into account EKV status.

Table 2: Completion rates for meeting all 3 treatment targets

Audit Year	Meet all 3 treatment targets - Blood pressure target of $< \frac{140}{80}$ applied to those patients without recorded EKV and blood pressure target of $< \frac{130}{80}$ applied to those patients with recorded EKV	Meet all 3 treatment targets - Blood pressure target of $\leq \frac{140}{80}$ applied to those patients without recorded EKV and blood pressure target of $\leq \frac{130}{80}$ applied to those patients with recorded EKV	Meet all 3 treatment targets - Blood pressure target of $\leq \frac{140}{80}$ applied to all patients
2009-10	19.3%	27.3%	33.6%
2010-11	19.7%	27.6%	33.7%
2011-12	20.8%	29.2%	35.9%

These changes need to be taken into account when reviewing the 2012-2013 Audit report in comparison with historical reports for the NDA.