

Comments on HEDIS LDL Measure on Behalf of ABC:
Submitted Online on March 13

About ABC: Since our founding 50 years ago, the Association of Black Cardiologists has grown to include over 2,000 members across the cardiology community. ABC strives to promote the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease in Black and minority communities by eliminating gaps in our healthcare system. We work to close these gaps through advocacy that speaks to the inconsistent care in medicine, by promoting minority populations in clinical trials, by supporting patient access and adherence, and by combating barriers to existing and emerging technologies.

The Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC) strongly support the proposed updates to the Statin Therapy for Patients with Cardiovascular Disease (SPC) and Statin Therapy for Patients with Diabetes (SPD) measures within the Electronic Clinical Data Systems (ECDS) reporting standard. These updates represent a crucial step in improving lipid management and reducing cardiovascular risk by incorporating LDL measurement and expanding lipid-lowering therapy (LLT) options beyond statins. Specifically:

- The ECDS reporting standard will provide a more comprehensive clinical data framework, supporting the evolution of lipid management measures toward meaningful, LDL-focused outcomes that better reflect cardiovascular risk reduction.
- We emphasize the urgent need to update statin-related measures to include LDL measurement, reinforcing the importance of shifting toward LDL control as the primary treatment goal in alignment with clinical best practices.
- These updates should also account for appropriate LLT options beyond statins, ensuring that patients with statin intolerance or those who require alternative therapies receive evidence-based treatment and are included in quality measures.

Additionally, we support the sex-specific age band changes in alignment with updates to other chronic condition measures, such as diabetes. These changes reflect guidelines from the American College of Cardiology and American Hospital Association for initiating statin therapy to reduce atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) risk and improve overall cardiovascular health outcomes. Specifically:

- The revised measure highlights the importance of early identification of individuals at risk for or living with ASCVD, allowing for broader diagnostic criteria to facilitate earlier risk detection and timely initiation of LLT therapies when they can have the greatest clinical impact.
- It is critical for NCQA to ensure clear communication and application of the updated ASCVD definition and diagnostic criteria so that all eligible patients receive appropriate treatment, reducing gaps in care and optimizing cardiovascular risk management.

By implementing these updates, NCQA can help drive improvements in lipid management, ASCVD prevention, and treatment adherence, ultimately leading to better patient outcomes and reduced cardiovascular disease burden.