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Heart/Stroke Recognition Program

American Stroke
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A Division of American
Heart Association

American Heart
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NCQA
Measuring the Quality of America's Health Care



Recognizing Physicians for Excellence in Cardiovascular and

Providing excellent care to patients is your first priority, but practicing medicine in today's environment is more challenging than ever. You're managing a full office schedule and responding to the increasing demands of insurers, and you are often left with less time to spend with patients delivering the care they truly need and deserve. How can you assure yourself and your patients that the care you're providing is second to none?

To provide physicians with tools to support the delivery and recognition of consistent, high quality care, the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA) have developed the Heart/Stroke Recognition Program. It's a voluntary program, developed to help physicians use evidence-based measures and provide excellent care to patients with cardiovascular diseases. Participating physicians

are rewarded for taking the steps needed to ensure high-quality care — by identifying patients already getting the care according to the standards and by going the extra mile to identify patients who would benefit from additional interventions.

Achieving Recognition through the Heart/Stroke Recognition Program sets you apart from others — it demonstrates to your patients that you are giving them the best care possible. In turn, you earn increased respect from your peers and patients, and distinguish yourself as a leader in your community. Increasingly, physicians who earn NCQA/AHA/ASA Recognition are eligible for financial rewards. By knowing you are providing excellent care you are free to spend more time building satisfying relationships with your patients and building a healthy practice for years to come.

The Heart/Stroke Recognition Program has been embraced by many of the nation's leading physicians, and there are currently hundreds of physicians who have earned this distinction. The benefits you will realize are:

Distinction: Be part of an elite group that is publicly recognized for skill in providing the highest-level heart/stroke care. You'll receive a Recognition certificate of achievement that can be proudly displayed in your office or waiting room — symbolizing the high quality of care your patients have come to expect from you.

Recognition: Public recognition of your achievement helps distinguish you as a high-quality care physician. Health plans are using Recognition as a way to notify their members of high-quality providers within their networks. Your name will be posted in certain health plan directories and on directory Web sites identifying you with the program seal of recognition. Visit www.ncqa.org/hsrp to see what Recognition looks like online.

Rewards: In addition to earning the respect and admiration of your peers and your patients, you may also be eligible for monetary awards. Increasingly, employers and health plans are using Heart/Stroke Recognition to determine physicians' eligibility for pay-for-quality awards.



Stroke Care

Cardiovascular disease affects over 70 million Americans and accounts for \$393.5 billion in costs annually¹. About 700,000 people will have a stroke this year, making it the nation's no. 3 killer and a leading cause of severe long-term disability². The Heart/Stroke Recognition Program was developed to address the dramatic impact of these diseases and provide a platform to aid physicians in developing practice protocols to improve care and ultimately improve the life and well being of patients.

Evidence-Based Measures Used to Evaluate Performance

The requirements below represent commonly accepted measures of care for patients with cardiovascular disease. By evaluating a sample of your patients against these requirements you obtain valuable information about your practice.

Heart/Stroke Recognition Measures	
	Criteria
Blood Pressure Control (<140/90mmHg)	75% of patients
BP Results Partial credit for patients with BP up to 145/95 mmHg	
Complete Lipid Profile	80% of patients
Cholesterol Control (LDL<100 mg/dL)	50% of patients
LDL Results Partial credit for patients with LDL up to 129 mg/dL	
Use of Aspirin or Another Antithrombotic	80% of patients
Smoking Status and Cessation Advice or Treatment	80% of patients

Standards apply to ischemic vascular disease: CAD (AMI, stable angina, percutaneous coronary intervention, CABG); peripheral arterial disease; and cerebrovascular disease (ischemia, stroke, atheroembolism).

References

1. Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics, 2005 Update, Page 5. American Heart Association.
2. Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics, 2005 Update, Page 4. American Heart Association.

Small and Large Practices Can Participate —

Simply select a start date, identify 35 eligible patients, collect appropriate data from their charts and input into the electronic submission form. You then electronically submit your data for review and receive notification of your Recognition within 30 days.

Follow the Steps Below —

- 1. Order Free Application Packet:** Call NCQA Customer Support at (888) 275-7585 or visit www.ncqa.org/hsrp.
- 2. Purchase the Survey Tool:** The Survey Tool is a Web-based program that enables you to collect and submit your data for evaluation. Cost for one Survey Tool is \$60.
- 3. Mail in Signed Agreements and Applications Fees*:** Review and mail in two signed copies each of the NCQA Agreement and the Business Associate Addendum along with information about your practice.
- 4. Identify Patient Sample, Enter Data in Worksheet, and Evaluate Your Performance:** Abstract data for your patient sample and enter it into the Survey Tool. The worksheet automatically scores your performance and lets you know if you meet the Heart/Stroke Recognition Program requirements.
- 5. Submit Survey Tool and Worksheet Electronically**
- 6. NCQA Review and Notification:** NCQA evaluates your survey tool information and, when complete, sends you notification of the results within 30 days. If you pass, your name is then posted to the NCQA Web site as a Recognized physician.

For more specific information about the Heart/Stroke Recognition Program, including listings of recognized physicians and application material, visit www.ncqa.org/hsrp or contact NCQA Customer Support at (888) 275-7585.

*A discount fee schedule is available for those applicants applying through a sponsored program such as Bridges to Excellence (BTE) or a health plan.



American Heart Association/ American Stroke Association

The American Heart Association is the largest voluntary health organization fighting heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases, which annually kill over 925,000 Americans. It has more than 22.5 million volunteers and supporters carrying out its mission in communities across the country. The American Stroke Association is a division of the American Heart Association, and its goal is to raise awareness of stroke and reduce disability and death from stroke.

NCQA

NCQA is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. NCQA accredits and certifies a wide range of health care organizations, recognizes physicians and physician groups in key clinical areas and manages the evolution of HEDIS®, the tool the nation's health plans use to measure and report on their performance. NCQA is committed to providing health care quality information through the Web, media and data licensing agreements in order to help consumers, employers and others make more informed health care choices.

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