Primary Care Management

This is a PDF version of the following document:
Module 2: Basic HIV Primary Care
Lesson 5: Primary Care Management

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Topic Overview

With the advent of potent antiretroviral therapies, the life expectancy of individuals with HIV has increased dramatically, and HIV clinical care has transitioned to a chronic disease model. In recent years, proportionately fewer individuals with HIV experience AIDS-related complications compared with non-AIDS serious illnesses, such as cardiovascular disease and non-AIDS-defining malignancies.[1] Consequently, clinicians who provide primary care to persons with HIV should have the knowledge and skills to recognize and manage common primary care conditions and to implement evidence-based prevention measures. This review will explore several common topics in the primary care management of persons with HIV.
Cancer Screening

Overview

People with HIV have an overall increased risk of cancer (and younger age of onset) compared with the general population.[2,3,4] Research suggests a correlation between HIV-related immunodeficiency and malignancy, possibly through a mechanism of immune dysregulation and decreased immune surveillance; it is now well recognized that a low CD4 cell count increases the risk of malignancy.[5,6] As persons with HIV live longer in the current era of effective antiretroviral therapy, a shift has occurred from predominantly AIDS-defining malignancies to non-AIDS-defining malignancies.[6,7,8,9] Since 2003, the number of non-AIDS-defining malignancies has exceeded the number of AIDS-defining malignancies, and consequently, clinicians must be vigilant in surveillance for all forms of malignancy, AIDS-associated or not.

Changing Cancer Epidemiology in Persons with HIV

Data from the CDC and the HIV/AIDS Cancer Match Study showed a sharp increase in non-AIDS-defining cancers among persons with HIV from 1991 through 2005.[8,10] Additional data suggest the trend of increasing non-AIDS-defining cancers will continue and that by 2030, prostate and lung cancer will be the most common types of cancer in people with HIV.[4] Kaposi’s sarcoma and non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma (both AIDS-defining malignancies), along with lung cancer (linked to excess tobacco exposure), are currently the most common cancers in persons with HIV.[4,11] In a recent study among individuals with HIV in the United States, half of all excess deaths were due to AIDS-defining cancers (Kaposi's sarcoma, non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, and cervical cancer), and half were due to non-AIDS-defining cancers (lung, anal, liver, oral/pharyngeal cancers); most of these cancers are mediated by viral coinfections.[12] In this same study, there was no excess of colon, breast, or prostate cancer among persons with HIV compared with the general population.[12] Other studies have shown rates of prostate and colorectal cancer similar to or slightly lower than in the general population.[8,13]

Cancer Surveillance

The shifting spectrum of cancer in persons with HIV underscores the importance of incorporating standardized cancer surveillance practices in the care of persons with HIV, including those with relatively preserved immune function. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) USPSTF has recommendations for cancer screening, but these are for the general population and not specific to people with HIV. Recommendations regarding screening for malignancies specific to individuals with HIV have also been issued.

Cancer Screening Recommendations Not Impacted by HIV

Breast Cancer Screening

In the United States, breast cancer is the most common cancer in women, regardless of race or ethnicity.[14] Although unusual clinical presentations and more rapid progression of breast cancer have been reported among women with HIV, breast cancer prevalence does not appear to be increased in women with HIV.[15] The HIVMA/IDSA Primary Care Guidance recommends that women with HIV follow the same breast cancer screening guidelines as for women without HIV.[16] Nevertheless, there are some differences among professional organizations as to the optimal age of initiation and the frequency of breast cancer screening in women with and without HIV.

- **USPSTF Recommendations for Breast Cancer Screening**: The USPSTF recommends every other year screening mammography for all women aged 50 to 74 years.[17] The decision to start earlier biennial screening (for women 40 to 49 years of age) should be an individual one, with the option to begin screening in women who place a higher value on the potential benefit than the potential harm of breast cancer screening.[17] These recommendations state there is insufficient evidence to
recommend for or against breast cancer screening in women 75 years of age and older.\[17\] NOTE: On May 9, 2023 the USPSTF issued a new DRAFT Recommendation Statement for Breast Cancer Screening that recommends all women get screened for breast cancer every other year, beginning at 40 years of age and continuing to 74 years of age.

- **American Cancer Society**: For women who have an average risk of breast cancer, the American Cancer Society (ACS) recommends annual mammography screening beginning at age 45 years.\[18,19\] Women 40 to 44 years of age should have the opportunity to begin annual screening.\[18\] At 55 years of age, women should transition to biannual mammography screening or have the opportunity to begin annual mammography screening.\[18\] The ACS guidelines recommend that screening mammography should continue in women who have overall good health and a life expectancy of at least 10 years.\[18\]

**Colon Cancer Screening**

In the general United States population, colon cancer is the fourth most common cancer, accounting for approximately 50,000 deaths per year.\[14,20\] Although persons with HIV may have a slightly higher risk of developing colon cancer, screening for colon cancer in persons with HIV should not be based on HIV RNA levels or CD4 cell count. The HIVMA/IDSA Primary Care Guidance recommends that persons with HIV follow the same colon cancer screening recommendations as for persons without HIV.\[16\]

- **USPSTF Recommendations for Colorectal Cancer Screening**: The USPSTF recommends screening for colorectal cancer in adults between the ages of 45 and 75 years.\[21\] Decisions regarding colorectal cancer screening for persons aged 76 to 85 years should be individualized.\[21\] The USPSTF does not recommend performing routine screening in adults older than 85 years of age.\[21\] The USPSTF guidelines provide the following screening options, with the ultimate goal of improving screening rates: (1) stool-based tests (e.g., high sensitivity fecal occult blood testing [FOBT]), (2) fecal immunochemical testing (FIT), FIT-DNA testing, and (3) direct visualization tests (e.g. flexible sigmoidoscopy with or without FIT, colonoscopy, and computed tomographic colonography).\[21\] The screening interval depends on the screening modality and the results of the screening tests.

- **American Cancer Society**: In 2018, the American Cancer Society issued a guideline update, which recommends screening adults with an average risk of colorectal cancer starting at age 45 years.\[22\] This is a qualified recommendation (one in which there is clear evidence of benefit but less certainty about the balance of benefits and harms), whereas their recommendation to screen adults aged 50 years and older is a strong recommendation.\[22\]

- **U.S. Multi-Society Task Force (USMSTF)**: In 2022, the USMSTF on Colorectal Cancer issued recommendations for colorectal cancer screening in the general population.\[23\] These guidelines recommend initiating screening at 45 years of age in persons at average risk.\[23\] The 2017 USMSTF guideline also ranks existing colorectal cancer screening tests as shown in the table below.\[24\]

**Multi-Society Task Force Ranking of Current Colorectal Cancer Screening Tests**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Colono</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>scopy every 10 years</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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- Annual fecal immunochromatographic test (FIT)

**Tier 2**

- CT colonography every 5 years
- FIT-fecal DNA every 3 years
- Flexible sigmoidoscopy every 10 years (or every 5 years)

**Tier 3**

- Capsule endoscopy
Available Tests Not Currently Recommended

- Septin 9

Post-Colonoscopy Follow-Up recommendations: In 2012, the USMSTF published updated recommendations for colonoscopy surveillance based on the most advanced findings from the baseline colonoscopy; these recommendations are summarized in the table below.\[25,26\]

### Table 2. U.S. Multi-Society Task Force on Colorectal Cancer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline Colonoscopy: Most Advanced Finding(s)</th>
<th>Recommended Surveillance Interval</th>
<th>Strength of Recommendation</th>
<th>Quality of Evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>10 years</td>
<td>High</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1–2 tubular adenomas &lt; 10 mm</td>
<td>7–10 years</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline Colonoscopy: Most Advanced Finding(s)</th>
<th>Recommended Surveillance Interval</th>
<th>Strength of Recommendation</th>
<th>Quality of Evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-4 tubular adenomas ≤ 10 mm</td>
<td>3 years very low</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-10 years tubular adenomas &lt; 10 mm</td>
<td>3 years moderate</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adenomas &gt; 10 mm</td>
<td>3 years high</td>
<td>High</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adenomas with tubulovillar</td>
<td>3 years moderate</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Baseline Colonoscopy: Most Advanced Finding(s)</td>
<td>Recommended Surveillance Interval</td>
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<td>Quality of Evidence</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Adenomas with high-grade dysplasia &gt; 10 adenomas on single examination</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adenomas or villosus histology</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>Weak</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyps</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline Colonoscopy: Most Advanced Finding(s)</td>
<td>Recommended Surveillance Interval</td>
<td>Strength of Recommendation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
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<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eversion of adenoma ≥ 20 mm</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

\[^e\] All recommendations assume examination complete to cecum with bowel preparation adequate to detect lesions >5 mm in size; recommendations do not apply to individuals with a hereditary CRC syndrome, personal history of inflammatory bowel disease, personal history of hereditary cancer syndrome, serrated
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline Colonoscopy: Most Advanced Finding(s)</th>
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<th>Strength of Recommendation</th>
<th>Quality of Evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>polyposis syndrome, malignant polyp, personal history of CRC, or family history of CRC, and must be judiciously applied to such individuals, favoring the shortest indicated interval based on either history or polyp findings.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up may be with colonoscopy or other screening modality for average-risk individuals.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients with recommendations issued before 2020 for shorter than 7- to 10-year follow-up after diagnosis of 1–2 tubular</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline Colonoscopy: Most Advanced Finding(s)</td>
<td>Recommended Surveillance Interval</td>
<td>Strength of Recommendation</td>
<td>Quality of Evidence</td>
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<tr>
<td>adenomas may follow original recommendations. If feasible, physicians may re-evaluate patients previously recommended an interval shorter than 10 y and reasonably choose to provide an updated recommendation for 7- to 10-year follow-up, taking into account factors such as quality of baseline examination, polyp history, and patient preferences.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Assumes high confidence of complete resection.</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Patients with &gt;10 adenomas or lifetime &gt;10 cumulative</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Baseline Colonoscopy: Most Advanced Finding(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>adenomas</th>
<th>Recommended Surveillance Interval</th>
<th>Strength of Recommendation</th>
<th>Quality of Evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Adenomas may need to be considered for genetic testing based on an absolute/cumulative adenoma number, patient age, and other factors such as family history of CRC (see text).


Source:

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### Lung Cancer Screening

In the United States, lung cancer is the third most common cancer in men and women and the leading overall cause of cancer deaths.[14] Increasing age and cumulative exposure to tobacco smoke are cited as the two most important risk factors for lung cancer.[27,28] In persons with HIV, lung cancer is the leading cause of mortality from cancer.[29] Compared to the general population, persons with HIV have higher rates of lung cancer and may have poorer outcomes.[29] The National Lung Screening Trial is a large, multicenter, randomized, controlled trial that randomized participants aged 55 to 74 years at high risk for lung cancer to three annual screenings with either low-dose computed tomography or single-view posteroanterior chest radiography; screening with computed tomography offered a relative reduction in mortality from lung cancer of 20% compared to only 6.4% with chest radiography.[30] In a subsequent analysis of the National Lung Screening Trial with additional follow-up, investigators reported a relative risk reduction of 16%.\[31\] At this time, recommendations for lung cancer screening for people with HIV are the same as in the general population and are summarized by the following guidance.
• **USPSTF Recommendations for Lung Cancer Screening**: The USPSTF recommends annual screening with low-dose computed tomography in patients aged 50 to 80 years who have a greater than or equal to 20 pack-year smoking history if they are currently smoking or have quit smoking within the past 15 years.\[28\] Yearly screening should be discontinued if: (1) the person has not smoked for 15 years, or (2) they develop a health problem that limits their life expectancy or their ability or willingness to take part in curative strategies.

**Prostate Cancer Screening**

Men with and without HIV have a similar risk of prostate cancer.\[2,11,13,32\] The reduction in prostate cancer mortality achieved with prostate-specific antigen (PSA)-based screening is small, whereas the potential for patients to experience adverse effects from over diagnosis and unnecessary treatment is high. The HIVMA/IDSA Primary Care Guidance recommends similar screening for prostate cancer in persons with HIV as for those without HIV.\[16\]

• **USPSTF Recommendations for Prostate Cancer Screening**: The USPSTF recommends prostate cancer screening should be an individualized decision for men 55 to 69 years of age.\[33\] The guidelines note that the three most important risk factors for prostate cancer are: older age, African American race, and family history.\[33\] The recommended screening test, if performed, is a measurement of the level of prostate-specific antigen (PSA) in the blood.\[33\] For men 70 years of age and older, the USPSTF guidelines recommend against routine screening for prostate cancer.\[33\] The USPSTF recommends that prostate cancer screening in transgender persons should be based on the presence or absence of a prostate, not on the person's identified gender.\[33\]

**Cancer Screening Recommendations Specific to HIV**

**Cervical Cancer Screening**

Abnormal cervical cytology is nearly 11 times more common among cisgender women with HIV compared with cisgender women in the general United States population, and abnormal cervical cytology is associated with the presence of human papillomavirus (HPV) infection and immune dysfunction. Cervical cancer screening recommendations for persons with a cervix differ slightly between those with HIV and those without HIV, as outlined below and in the Adult and Adolescent OI Guidelines.\[34\]

• **Age of Onset for Screening**: For people with HIV who have a cervix, initiation of cervical cancer screening is recommended beginning at 21 years of age.

• **Duration of Cervical Cancer Screening**: Cervical cancer screening should continue throughout the life of people with HIV who have a cervix, as opposed to the recommendation to stop after age 65 in the general population.

• **Cervical Cancer Screening at Entry to HIV Care**: Sexually active persons with HIV who have a cervix should undergo cervical cancer screening at initial entry to HIV care and again 12 months later. The screening test used should be determined by the person’s age, as reviewed below.

• **Screening in People Younger than 30 Years of Age**: Annual cervical Papanicolaou (Pap) testing is recommended in people with HIV younger than age 30 years, but if 3 consecutive annual screens are normal, cervical Pap tests can be performed every 3 years. Co-testing with HPV is not recommended for routine screening in this age group due to high HPV prevalence, but HPV testing can be done reflexively on abnormal cervical Pap results to direct further evaluation.

• **Screening in People 30 Years of Age or Older**: People with HIV who have a cervix and are 30 years of age and older should have either (1) cervical cancer screening by Pap testing alone or (2) Pap testing plus simultaneous HPV co-testing. If Pap testing alone is used, it should be performed at baseline and every 12 months; if the results of 3 consecutive Pap tests are normal, then follow-up testing can occur every 3 years. If Pap and HPV co-testing is performed and both are negative, follow-up screening can be performed in 3 years.

• **Management of Normal Pap Test and Positive HPV Test Results in People 30 Years of Age**
or Older: If the Pap test is normal, but HPV co-testing is positive, there are two main options.

- **Option 1**
  - Follow-up Pap test and HPV co-testing in 1 year.
  - If the 1-year follow-up Pap test is abnormal or HPV co-testing is positive, referral to colposcopy is recommended.

- **Option 2**
  - Perform HPV genotyping.
  - If the HPV genotyping is positive for HPV-16 or HPV-18, colposcopy is recommended.
  - If the HPV genotyping is negative for HPV-16 and HPV-18, repeat the HPV co-testing in 1 year; if the follow-up HPV test is positive or the follow-up Pap test is abnormal, colposcopy is recommended.

**Management of Abnormal Pap Smear Results:** For any Pap test result of low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (LSIL) or worse, colposcopy is recommended, regardless of HPV status. If the Pap test demonstrates atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance (ASC-US), HPV co-testing should be performed (in people of all ages with HIV who have a cervix). If the HPV test is positive, the person should be referred for colposcopy. Individuals with ASC-US in whom HPV testing is negative (or was not done) may be rescreened with Pap smear and a reflex HPV test in 6 to 12 months. If the subsequent result is ASC-US or worse, or if the HPV test is positive, referral to colposcopy is indicated. For further management of abnormal screening tests, additional guidelines and algorithms are available through the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (ASCCP).[35,36]

**Screening for Persons with a Cervix & who have Received HPV Vaccine:** For persons with HIV, cervical cancer screening recommendations are not altered if they have received prior HPV vaccination.

**Anal Cancer Screening**

The incidence of anal cancer in men with HIV who have sex with men is estimated to be 89 per 100,000 person-years, which is roughly 4 to 5 times higher than the incidence among women with HIV (19 per 100,000 person-years), and 55 times higher than the incidence in the general adult population (1.6 per 100,000 person-years).[2,11,37] Infection with HPV has been implicated in the pathogenesis of most anal malignancies. Screening for anal cancer and its precursors remains controversial, with recommendations varying between experts.

**Indications for Anal Pap Testing:** The HIVMA/IDSA Primary Care Guidance suggests performing anal Pap testing in persons with HIV who have a history of receptive intercourse if access to appropriate referral for follow-up is available.[16] The ANCHOR study results were considered prior to incorporating this recommendation. The ANCHOR study is a national randomized clinical trial to determine if the treatment of biopsy-proven anal high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions (HSIL) reduces the incidence of anal cancer in persons with HIV.[38] Results showed that the rate of progression to anal cancer was 57% lower in the treatment group, as compared to the active monitoring group.[39] The implications of the ANCHOR trial for routine anal cancer screening are not clear, as the ANCHOR study focused on the impact of treatment and not on screening. The HIVMA/IDSA Primary Care Guidance includes a recommendation to perform anal Pap smear screening for individuals with HIV who have genital warts or an abnormal cervical Pap test.[16] Note the Adult and Adolescent OI Guidelines section does not recommend for or against anal cancer screening but does state that screening for anal cancer with anal cytology should not be done without the availability to refer for high-resolution anoscopy.[34] These guideline recommendations are currently undergoing revision.

**Other Modalities for Anal Cancer Screening:** HPV testing is not recommended as part of screening at this time, although an annual digital rectal examination may detect masses associated with anal neoplasm or dysplasia, anal warts, other sexually transmitted infections, and prostate abnormalities and should be considered as part of anal health screening.[34]

**Management of Abnormal Anal Pap Test Result:** Abnormal anal Pap testing (ASC-US or worse) requires follow-up with high-resolution anoscopy and possible biopsy and treatment.[34] When
implementing anal Pap testing in clinical settings, it is critical to establish a follow-up plan and ensure access to providers who can deliver these services.
Cardiovascular

Cardiovascular Risk

There are many factors that influence and increase cardiovascular disease risk, including hypertension, hyperlipidemia, diabetes mellitus, and smoking. These factors are addressed separately in this Topic Review. This section will briefly address cardiovascular risk and include a discussion of aspirin prevention for cardiovascular disease (CVD) prevention and screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm. Statin use for primary prevention of CVD is discussed below in the Hyperlipidemia section.

Aspirin for Cardiovascular Disease Prevention

For persons with a documented history of CVD, aspirin for secondary prevention is strongly recommended. In contrast, the use of aspirin as primary prevention (i.e., for those in whom CVD has not yet been diagnosed) remains controversial. More recently, three large randomized controlled trials involving different populations (HIV was not an exclusion) examined the impact of aspirin 100 mg daily for primary prevention of CVD.[40,41,42] In all three studies, the risk of bleeding outweighed the benefit of preventing CVD (Figure 1).[43] The following summarizes professional guideline recommendations regarding aspirin use for primary prevention.

- **USPSTF**: In 2022, the USPSTF recommended against initiation of low-dose aspirin as primary prevention in adults 60 years or older.[44] The USPSTF also recommended that in adults 40 to 59 years with a 10-year Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease (ASCVD) risk of 10% or greater, the decision to initiate low-dose aspirin for primary prevention of CVD should be individualized.[44]
- **ACC/AHA**: The American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association (ACC/AHA) recommends considering aspirin for select adults 40 to 70 years of age who are at higher ASCVD risk but not at increased bleeding risk.[45,46]
- **ADA**: The American Diabetes Association (ADA) states aspirin may be considered as primary prevention in those with diabetes who are at increased CVD risk after a discussion regarding benefits versus the increased risk of bleeding.[47]

Screening for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)

An abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) is defined by the abnormal dilation of the abdominal aorta to a maximum diameter of 3 cm or greater.[48] Most AAAs are asymptomatic until they rupture, and when that occurs, the mortality rate is high. The prevalence of AAA is generally greater in older individuals, particularly men, but the most important risk factor for AAA is smoking.[49] Thus, the USPSTF recommends one-time AAA screening with ultrasonography for men 65 to 75 years of age who have ever smoked.[50]

Special Considerations in Persons with HIV

Cardiovascular Risk in Persons with HIV

Cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease are of special importance for individuals with HIV, with evidence showing a 1.5- to 2-fold greater risk of CVD in people with HIV when compared with those without HIV.[51,52] The increased CVD risk conferred by HIV has now been demonstrated in the Global Burden of Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease in People Living with HIV, the Kaiser Observational Study and the Veterans Aging Cohort Study (Figure 2).[51,53,54] Rates of heart failure, stroke, pulmonary hypertension, and sudden cardiac death are also higher for people with HIV, even those taking antiretroviral therapy with suppressed HIV RNA levels.[55] For these reasons, many experts consider HIV an independent CVD risk factor, especially in persons with HIV and more advanced immunosuppression.

Factors Associated with Increased Cardiovascular Risk in Persons with HIV
The increased risk of CVD in persons with HIV is potentially mediated by (1) traditional risk factors, such as dyslipidemia, obesity, and cigarette smoking, (2) metabolic alterations related to antiretroviral therapy (e.g., insulin resistance and dyslipidemia), and (3) factors linked to HIV itself, including immune activation and inflammation.[52, 55, 56] In addition, CVD in persons with HIV disproportionately affects Hispanic and Black individuals.[57, 58, 59]

**Cardiovascular Risk and Antiretroviral Therapy**

The overall benefits of antiretroviral therapy clearly outweigh the risks. In the Strategies for Management of Antiretroviral Therapy (SMART) trial, continuous antiretroviral therapy compared to intermittent (driven by CD4 count) antiretroviral therapy decreased all-cause mortality, including death from cardiovascular disease.[60] Nevertheless, studies examining individual drug and class effects have raised concerns regarding the contribution of abacavir and protease inhibitors (PIs) to cardiovascular risk, although results have been conflicting.[51, 61, 62, 63, 64] The Data Collection on Adverse Events of Anti-HIV Drugs (D:A:D) study found that recent abacavir use conferred the highest relative rate of myocardial infarction (relative rate of 1.89, even after controlling for traditional cardiovascular risk factors); in the D:A:D study, the abacavir effect appeared to be reversible after the drug was stopped.[65, 66, 67] Based on existing data, most experts would avoid abacavir in those with CVD.

**Cardiovascular Risk Reduction Strategies in Persons with HIV**

Cardiovascular risk reduction in persons with HIV is multifactorial, but general measures based on the available literature include the following:[55, 68, 69]

- Start antiretroviral therapy as soon as possible after diagnosis
- Achieve and sustain suppressed HIV RNA levels
- Encourage smoking cessation
- Promote physical activity
- Manage lipid, blood pressure, and glycemic abnormalities
- Avoid heavy alcohol use
- Adhere to American College of Cardiology (ACC)/American Heart Association (AHA) dietary guidelines

**Aspirin for Cardiovascular Disease Prevention in Persons with HIV**

Studies evaluating aspirin as primary prevention of CVD in people with HIV have not been done. Ultimately, the AHA Scientific Statement on “Characteristics, Prevention, and Management of CVD in People Living with HIV” recommends that “further studies are needed to elucidate the role of antithrombotic therapy for ASCVD prevention in HIV.”[55]

**Screening for Abdominal Aortic aneurysm (AAA) in Persons with HIV**

The AAA screening recommendations are the same for persons with HIV as for those without HIV—a one-time screening with ultrasonography for men 65 to 75 years of age who have ever smoked.[50] The overall risk of AAA among people with or without HIV is approximately the same, but the risk of AAA is higher in persons with HIV if they have a CD4 cell count of less than 200 cells/mm³ or an HIV-1 RNA level greater than 500 copies/mL.[70]
Diabetes Mellitus

Overview

Diabetes mellitus affects approximately 11% of the United States population aged 20 years and older and contributes to significant morbidity, decreased quality of life, rising health care costs, and mortality.[71] Patients with diabetes mellitus require frequent monitoring of laboratory values and the development of microvascular complications, including kidney disease, retinopathy, neuropathy, and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. The following discussion will focus primarily on type-2 diabetes mellitus.

Current Guidelines

The American Diabetic Association (ADA) maintains updated guidelines pertaining to the screening, diagnosis and management of diabetes, with the most recent version published in 2023.[47,72,73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81] Recommendations in the most recent version of these guidelines are outlined below.

Diabetes-Specific Recommendations

- **Indications for Diabetes Screening**: Routine screening for type 2 diabetes mellitus and prediabetes should be considered in all adults who are overweight or obese (BMI 25 kg/m$^2$ or greater) and have at least one additional risk factor for diabetes, such as physical inactivity or a first-degree relative with diabetes.[77] In the absence of additional risk factors, overweight and obese adults should be screened starting at age 35 years.[77] If tests are normal, screening should be repeated approximately every 3 years.[77]

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**Criteria for Testing for Diabetes or Prediabetes in Asymptomatic Adults**

1. Testing should be considered in overweight or obese (BMI $\geq$25 kg/m$^2$ or $\geq$23 kg/m$^2$ in Asian Americans) adults who have one or more of the following risk factors:
   - First-degree relative with diabetes
   - Race/ethnicity with increased risk of developing diabetes (e.g., African American, Latino, Native American, Asian American, Pacific Islander)
   - History of cardiovascular disease
   - Hypertension ($\geq$130/80 mmHg or on therapy for hypertension)
   - HDL cholesterol level $<35$ mg/dL (0.90 mmol/L) and/or a triglyceride level $>250$ mg/dL (2.82 mmol/L)
   - Women with polycystic ovary syndrome
   - Physical inactivity
   - Other clinical conditions associated with insulin resistance (e.g., severe obesity, acanthosis nigricans)

2. Patients with prediabetes (HbA1c $\geq$5.7% [39 mmol/mol], impaired glucose tolerance, or impaired fasting glucose) should be tested yearly.

3. Women who were diagnosed with gestational diabetes mellitus should have lifelong testing at least every 3 years.

4. For all other patients, testing should begin at 35 years of age.
5. If results are normal, testing should be repeated at a minimum of 3-year intervals, with consideration of more frequent testing depending on initial results and risk status.

6. People with HIV

Source:

**Diabetes Diagnostic Criteria:** The diagnosis of diabetes mellitus can be made using the following criteria:
- Fasting plasma glucose greater than or equal to 126 mg/dL (fasting defined as no caloric intake for 8 or more hours), or
- 2-hour plasma glucose greater than or equal to 200 mg/dL during an oral glucose tolerance test using the equivalent of a 75-gram glucose load, or
- HbA1c greater than or equal to 6.5%, or
- A random glucose greater than or equal to 200 mg/dL in a patient with classic symptoms of hyperglycemia or with hyperglycemia crisis.

**Definition of Prediabetes:** Individuals are defined as having prediabetes if screening tests reveal any one of the following: (1) fasting glucose of 100 to 125 mg/dL, (2) a 2-hour plasma glucose level of 140 to 199 mg/dL after an oral glucose tolerance test, or (3) HbA1c of 5.7 to 6.4%.[77] Individuals with prediabetes should be informed of their increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease, and they should be encouraged to pursue lifestyle modifications, including weight loss and increased physical activity, to lower these risks.[77] Repeat screening should occur annually in this population.

**Pharmacologic Therapy:** For persons who meet the criteria for type 2 diabetes, pharmacologic therapy, in addition to lifestyle modifications, is warranted.[73] Metformin is the preferred initial pharmacologic agent in the treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus as long as it is not contraindicated and the patient can tolerate it.[73] For persons with diabetes in whom atherosclerotic heart disease, heart failure, or chronic kidney disease predominates, the treatment regimen should include an agent that decreases cardio renal risk, such as a GLP-1 receptor agonist or a sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitor that has demonstrated cardiovascular risk reduction.[73] Some individuals with diabetes will require additional oral hypoglycemic agents or insulin in addition to the agents listed above.[73] Treatment should be individualized and patient-centered when adding a second agent to metformin.

**Monitoring and Goal for HbA1c:** Ongoing monitoring of HbA1c is recommended every 6 months if at treatment goal or every 3 months if not at goal or if therapy has changed.[75] The ideal HbA1c target is unclear, but recommended targets range from the most stringent goal of less than 6.5% to the least stringent goal of less than 8.0%. [75] Targeting stringent control is controversial given the finding from a large randomized control trial (ADVANCE) that found no evidence that maintaining an HbA1c of less than 6.5% provided long-term benefit with respect to mortality or macrovascular events.[82] A goal HbA1c of less than 7.0% is considered an appropriate goal for many nonpregnant adults.[75] A less stringent goal (HbA1c less than 8.0%) is considered appropriate for some individuals with diabetes, especially if they have experienced severe hypoglycemia, or other factors are present, such as a short life expectancy or existing major complications from long-standing diabetes.[75]

**Screening and Management of Complications**

**Screening for Complications:** Persons should undergo annual screening for complications of type 2 diabetes, including nephropathy, retinopathy, and neuropathy.[72] Annual screening for chronic kidney disease should consist of urinary albumin (e.g., spot urinary albumin-to-creatinine ratio) and estimated glomerular filtration rate in persons with type 1 diabetes with a duration of 5 years or longer and those with type 2 diabetes.[72] Comprehensive and dilated eye examinations and determination for follow-up should be conducted by an ophthalmologist or an optometrist.[72]
with type 2 diabetes should be assessed for diabetic peripheral neuropathy starting at diagnosis, and those with type 1 should undergo assessment 5 years after the diagnosis; thereafter, screening for neuropathy should occur at least annually. Screening for neuropathy should also include screening for distal symmetric polyneuropathy and autonomic neuropathy.[72]

• **Lifestyle Management**: Persons with diabetes should receive individualized counseling for nutritional therapy, psychosocial support, smoking cessation (if indicated), and self-management support.[80] Exercise guidelines recommend, in general, at least 150 minutes per week of moderate-intensity aerobic activity and at least twice-weekly resistance training.[80]

• **Use of Aspirin in Persons with Diabetes**: Those with diabetes and a history of ASCVD should receive a daily low-dose aspirin (75 to 162 mg) as a secondary prevention strategy.[47] Daily low-dose aspirin may be considered for use as a primary cardiovascular disease prevention strategy for individuals with diabetes who have increased cardiovascular risk, but this should be a shared decision-making process weighing the benefits versus the risk of bleeding.[47] In the ASCEND Trial, which included individuals with diabetes, the risk of bleeding still outweighed the benefit of preventing CVD.[40]

• **Treatment of Hypertension in Persons with Diabetes**: For individuals with diabetes and hypertension, the ADA recommends a target blood pressure of less than 130/80 mmHg.[47] This can be achieved with either an angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor, angiotensin II blocker (ARB), thiazide-type diuretic, or calcium channel blocker. For those with microalbuminuria, an ACE or ARB should be the first-line choice.[47]

• **Lipid Screening and Management of Hyperlipidemia**: Lipid screening is advised in adults with type 2 diabetes at baseline and at least every 5 years thereafter.[47] For persons with diabetes who require treatment for lipid disorders, a lipid profile should be obtained at initiation of lipid-lowering therapy, within 4 to 12 weeks after initiating or changing therapy, and yearly thereafter.[47] Increased LDL should be managed aggressively with statin therapy and in accordance with the 2018 ACC/AHA Cholesterol Treatment Guidelines.[47,83]

Special Considerations for Persons with HIV

**Screening for Diabetes**

In the modern era of HIV treatment, the prevalence of diabetes mellitus in persons with HIV is estimated at 2 to 14%. [84] The HIVMA/IDSA Primary Care Guidance recommendations for the evaluation of diabetes in persons with HIV are as follows:[16]

• **Screening for Diabetes in Persons Not on Antiretroviral Therapy**: The HIVMA/IDSA HIV Primary Care Guidance recommends that prior to starting antiretroviral therapy, all persons with HIV should have screening for diabetes with a blood glucose (random or fasting) level and HbA1c.[16] If a random blood glucose value is greater than 200 mg/dL then a fasting blood glucose should be obtained. For persons not taking antiretroviral therapy, the diagnosis of diabetes is established with the same criteria as for persons without HIV. The ADA Guidelines recommend screening for diabetes with a fasting glucose test before starting antiretroviral therapy.[77]

• **Screening for Diabetes in Persons Taking Antiretroviral Therapy**: For persons taking antiretroviral therapy, only evaluation of plasma glucose (random or fasting) should be used for diabetes screening.[16] The use of HbA1c is not recommended for diagnosing diabetes in persons with HIV who are taking antiretroviral therapy, primarily because HBA1c may underestimate glycemia in this setting.[77] The ADA Guidelines recommend screening for diabetes at the time of switching antiretroviral therapy and 3 to 6 months after starting or switching antiretroviral therapy.[77] Subsequently, repeat screening for diabetes in persons taking antiretroviral therapy should be performed annually.

**General Approach to Management of Diabetes in Persons with HIV**

In general, the management of diabetes in persons with HIV should occur according to the ADA
guidelines.[73,74,75]

- **Management of Diabetes in Persons with HIV:** In most cases, persons with HIV and mild blood glucose abnormalities can be effectively managed with lifestyle changes that include weight loss, increased exercise, and dietary modification.[74,80] If therapeutic intervention is warranted, initiating treatment with metformin is preferred.[73]
- **Monitoring Glycemic Status:** Individuals with HIV who have diabetes should have glycemic status (HbA1c or other glycemic measurement) monitored at least twice a year, with quarterly monitoring recommended with therapy changes and when glycemic goals are not met.[75] The glycemic goal for nonpregnant adults is an HbA1c of less than 7% without significant hypoglycemia; the blood glucose target goal is to have greater than 70% of readings in the target range of 70-180 mg/dL.[75]
- **Screening for Renal Disease:** In addition to routine monitoring of kidney function (addressed in the section on chronic kidney disease), persons with HIV should have annual monitoring of urine albuminuria in accordance with the ADA guidelines.[76,85]
- **Antiretroviral Therapy:** In most individuals, switching the antiretroviral regimen is not beneficial for impaired glucose tolerance. It is, however, important to evaluate potential drug interactions as some antiretroviral medications can indirectly contribute to elevated plasma glucose levels. For example, protease inhibitors and cobicistat can increase drug levels of quetiapine or certain corticosteroids (inhaled or oral) and thus cause hyperglycemia. In addition, for individuals who start antiretroviral therapy and have substantial weight gain associated with hyperglycemia, consideration should be given to a regimen to switch if the weight gain is likely attributed to the antiretroviral regimen.
- **Use of Metformin and Antiretroviral Medications:** The use of metformin with certain antiretroviral medications should also be carefully monitored. For example, concurrent use of metformin with dolutegravir or bictegravir can increase the concentrations of metformin.[86]
Hypertension

Overview

Hypertension is the most common diagnosis seen in primary care, and untreated hypertension increases the risk of myocardial infarction, stroke, renal failure, and death. According to the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), from 2017 through 2018, the age-adjusted prevalence of hypertension among persons aged 18 years and older was 45.4% (Figure 3).[87]

Definition of Hypertension

The 2017 ACC/AHA Hypertension Guideline revised the definition of hypertension as any systolic blood pressure of at least 130 mm Hg or any diastolic BP of at least 80 mm Hg (Figure 4).[88]

Baseline Evaluation of Persons with Hypertension

The initial evaluation of patients with hypertension has three primary objectives: (1) to assess lifestyle and other risk factors that may affect prognosis and guide treatment of hypertension, (2) to reveal identifiable secondary causes of hypertension (such as renovascular or thyroid disease), and (3) to identify the presence or absence of target-organ damage and cardiovascular disease.[88] The 2017 ACC/AHA Hypertension Guideline recommends a baseline evaluation for all persons with hypertension that should include an electrocardiogram, complete blood count, sodium, potassium, creatinine with estimated glomerular filtration rate, calcium, thyroid stimulating hormone, urinalysis, a lipid profile, and fasting blood glucose.[88]

Current Guidelines for the Management of Hypertension

The 2017 ACC/AHA Hypertension Guideline addresses thresholds for treatment initiation, blood pressure goals, and recommendations regarding medication treatment.[88] The key points from these guidelines are summarized below:[88]

- For adults with hypertension, the recommended blood pressure treatment goal is less than 130/80 mm Hg.
- For persons with stage 1 hypertension, the American College of Cardiology ASCVD Risk Estimator should be used to determine the estimated 10-year risk for heart disease and stroke. If the risk is less than 10%, start with healthy lifestyle recommendations and reassess in 3 to 6 months; pharmacologic therapy is recommended when the risk is greater than 10%.
- Lifestyle modification is the foundation for cardiovascular risk reduction, and counseling should be provided to all persons with hypertension and continued throughout the management of the disease. The following are recommended lifestyle changes: (1) use the Dietary Approach to Stop Hypertension (DASH), (2) lose excess body weight, (3) reduce dietary intake of sodium, (4) increase dietary intake of potassium, (5) incorporate a weekly routine of physical activity that includes aerobic exercise, dynamic resistance training, and isometric resistance training, and (6) reduce consumption of alcohol.
- First-line initial pharmacotherapy for stage 1 hypertension, when indicated, should consist of treatment with a thiazide-type diuretic, calcium-channel blocker, angiotensin-converting-enzyme inhibitor, or angiotensin-receptor blocker; a repeat evaluation of blood pressure should occur in 1 month.
- Initial pharmacotherapy for stage 2 hypertension should consist of simultaneous administration of two agents of different classes (thiazide-type diuretic, calcium-channel blocker, angiotensin-converting-enzyme inhibitor, or angiotensin-receptor blocker). This strategy should be used with caution in older individuals.
- Avoid the simultaneous administration of an angiotensin-converting-enzyme inhibitor and an angiotensin-receptor blocker.
- For Black individuals with hypertension who do not have heart failure or chronic kidney disease, the
preferred initial therapy is either a thiazide-type diuretic or a calcium-channel blocker.

- For all individuals with chronic kidney disease (stage 3 or higher, or stage 1 or 2 with albuminuria \([\geq 300 \text{ mg/day}, \text{ or } \geq 300 \text{ mg/g albumin-to-creatinine ratio in the first morning void}]\)), the antihypertensive regimen should include an angiotensin-converting-enzyme inhibitor, or an angiotensin-receptor blocker if the angiotensin-converting-enzyme inhibitor is not tolerated. Table 4.

### 2017 Hypertension Guidelines: Blood Pressure Targets and Treatment Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BP Category</th>
<th>Systolic</th>
<th>Diastolic</th>
<th>Treatment or Follow-Up</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nor and Evaluated yearly; encourage healthy lifestyle changes</td>
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<tr>
<td>BP Category</td>
<td>Systolic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elevated</td>
<td>120-129</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hypertension: Stage 1</td>
<td>130-139</td>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>Assessment of 10-year risk for heart disease</td>
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<td>Low Risk</td>
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<td>Medium Risk</td>
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<tr>
<td>High Risk</td>
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Source:
Special Considerations for Persons with HIV

Hypertension in Persons with HIV

Hypertension is common in people with HIV, and it increases the risk of acute myocardial infarction.[89,90,91] In people with HIV, the presence of hypertension is associated with traditional risk factors such as increasing age, obesity, African American race, diabetes, or hyperlipidemia.[91]

Management of Hypertension in People with HIV

Management of hypertension in people with HIV is not specifically addressed by the 2017 ACC/AHA Hypertension Guideline referenced above or by the HIVMA/IDSA Primary Care Guidance.[16,88] Nevertheless, since both hypertension and HIV are cardiovascular risk factors, both should be managed aggressively, and it is reasonable to follow the recommendations in the 2017 ACC/AHA Hypertension Guideline.[88] In addition, clinicians should consider the risk of drug interactions when adding any antihypertensive medication to a background of antiretroviral therapy. In particular, clinicians should use caution when administering calcium channel blockers, such as amlodipine, diltiazem, felodipine, nifedipine, and verapamil, in patients taking protease inhibitors or cobicistat, since these medications can raise levels of calcium channel blocker drugs; electrocardiographic monitoring is recommended if a calcium channel blocker is used with either atazanavir or saquinavir.[92,93]
Hyperlipidemia

Overview

Combined data from the CDC and NHANES shows that approximately 11.5% of United States adults 20 years of age and older have elevated total cholesterol (defined as greater than or equal to 240 mg/dL), and 27.8% had a low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) level greater than or equal to 130 mg/dL. Elevated cholesterol can lead to atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of preventable death in the United States.

Lipid-Lowering Agents

Statins remain the primary initial drug class used to treat elevated LDL cholesterol, but multiple different classes of lipid-lowering agents are now available.

- **Statins (HMG-CoA Reductase Inhibitors):** The statin class of medication works by inhibiting cholesterol synthesis. Specifically, these medications inhibit 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-coenzyme A (HMG-CoA) reductase, an enzyme responsible for converting HMG-CoA to mevalonic acid—a key step in cholesterol synthesis. In addition, statins also increase the number of low-density lipoprotein (LDL) receptors. For treatment purposes, statins are categorized based on their impact on lowering LDL cholesterol (LDL-C).

- **Cholesterol Absorption Inhibitors:** Ezetimibe is the only approved medication in this class, and it targets the Niemann–Pick C1–like 1 (NPC1L1) protein and thereby selectively inhibits intestinal and biliary cholesterol absorption. The reduced cholesterol absorption causes decreased delivery of intestinal cholesterol to the liver and lowers circulating levels of cholesterol. This medication is also likely to increase the number of LDL receptors. The recommended dose of ezetimibe is 10 mg once daily; it is generally well tolerated, and, in combination with a statin, it lowers LDL cholesterol by an additional 15 to 20% but raises high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol minimally (about 1 to 2%).

- **Bile Acid Sequestrants:** These agents are large molecular weight polymers that bind to bile acids and bile salts in the intestines, forming an insoluble complex that is excreted in stool. Commonly used bile acid sequestrants include cholestyramine, colesevelam, and colestipol; these medications lower LDL-C by about 15 to 30%. Since these medications are not systemically absorbed, they are generally considered safe, but they can cause bloating and gastrointestinal discomfort. These medications should not be used in someone with biliary obstruction, severe constipation, or severe hypertriglyceridemia.

- **PCSK9 Inhibitors:** The PCSK9 inhibitors are injectable humanized monoclonal antibodies that bind to proprotein convertase subtilisin–kexin type 9 (PCSK9) and thereby decrease the degradation of LDL receptors. At the surface of hepatocytes, the LDL receptors act as binding sites for circulating LDL cholesterol—a key step for processing and removal of LDL. Within the hepatocytes, the LDL receptors have a recycling process whereby they either return to the cell surface or they are shunted to the lysosome and degraded. The enzyme PCSK9 enhances the movement of the LDL receptors to the lysosome. Accordingly, the PCSK9 inhibitors reduce the impact of PCSK9 on LDL receptors being shunted to lysosomes, effectively creating more LDL receptors at the surface of the hepatocyte.

- **Fibrates (PPAR Agonists):** The fibrates—derivatives of fibric acid—exert their action as an agonist of peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor alpha (PPAR-α), a protein that increases gene transcription of proteins that regulate metabolism of triglycerides and HDL. Fibrates can lower triglycerides by approximately 40% and increase HDL by 15%, but they have minimal impact on...
LDL levels. Commonly used fibrates include bezafibrate, clofibrate, fenofibrate, and gemfibrozil.

**Guidelines for the Management of Dyslipidemia**

The 2018 ACC/AHA Cholesterol Treatment Guidelines are the most important guidelines for the management of hyperlipidemia.[83] These guidelines discuss multiple factors to consider when deciding whether to initiate lipid-lowering treatment, including prior ASCVD event, age, LDL-C levels, high-risk conditions, and estimated 10-year risk for heart disease (using the American College of Cardiology ASCVD Risk Estimator).[83]

**Baseline Evaluation and Initiation of Therapy**

Evaluation for secondary causes of hyperlipidemia should be considered, particularly in persons with severe elevations of LDL (greater than or equal to 190 mg/dL) or triglycerides (greater than or equal to 500 mg/dL). Major secondary causes that are encountered in clinical practice include diet, medications (diuretics, cyclosporine, glucocorticoids, and amiodarone), medical diseases (biliary obstruction or nephrotic syndrome), and disorders of altered metabolism (hypothyroidism, obesity, pregnancy, and diabetes). For patients meeting the criteria for benefit from statin therapy, the guidelines specify whether a high-, moderate-, or low-intensity statin should be initiated, depending on age, calculated ASCVD risk, LDL-C level, and other clinical factors (Figure 5).[102]

**Secondary Prevention in Persons with Clinical ASCVD**

All persons with clinical ASCVD should receive counseling for optimizing a healthy lifestyle, and all should receive secondary prevention with lipid-lowering therapy.[83] In general, the initial goal of statin therapy for secondary prevention in persons with ASCVD is to achieve a 50% or greater reduction in LDL-C levels and an absolute LDL-C level of less than 70 mg/dL.[83] The following summarizes key recommendations in the guidelines for secondary prevention in persons with ASCVD; detailed recommendations are given in the guidelines.[83] Persons considered to be at very high risk include those with a history of multiple major ASCVD events or 1 major ASCVD event and multiple high-risk conditions.

- **Age 75 Years and Younger (and Not at Very High Risk):** Initiate therapy with a high-intensity statin; if the high-intensity statin is not tolerated, then use a moderate-intensity statin. If, while on statin therapy, the LDL-C remains at 70 mg/dL or greater, consider adding ezetimibe.
- **Age Older than 75 Years (and Not at Very High Risk):** Initiate therapy with a moderate- or high-intensity statin.
- **Very High Risk (Regardless of Age):** Individuals who meet the criteria for very high risk of having a future ASCVD event should initially receive a high-intensity or maximally-tolerated statin. If, while on statin therapy, the LDL-C remains at 70 mg/dL or greater, adding ezetimibe is reasonable. If the LDL-C remains at 70 mg/dL or greater while on a high-intensity statin and ezetimibe, it is reasonable to consult with a lipid specialist when considering adding a PCSK9 inhibitor.

**Primary Prevention in Adults**

The following summarizes key recommendations from the 2018 ACC/AHA Cholesterol Treatment Guidelines regarding lipid management for primary prevention of ASCVD.[83] In general, the target LDL-C goals for primary prevention are not as stringent as with secondary prevention.[83] Detailed explanations and recommendations are contained in the guidelines.[83] The following highlights key recommendations in these guidelines.

- **LDL-C of 190 mg/dL or Greater:** For individuals with an LDL-C of 190 mg/dL or greater, therapy can be initiated with a high-intensity statin. Further management of these individuals is based on age and response to therapy.
- **Diabetes Mellitus:** For persons with diabetes mellitus aged 40 to 75 years, initiate therapy with a moderate-intensity statin, but consider using a high-intensity statin if the individual has multiple...
ASCVD risk factors. Consider adding ezetimibe if the 10-year ASCVD risk is greater than 20%. For persons with diabetes who are older than 75 years of age, it is reasonable to continue statin therapy, but the decision to initiate statin therapy at this age should be based on a discussion between the medical provider and the patient.

- **LDL-C of 71 to 189 mg/dL and Age 40 to 75 Years, without Diabetes**: For this group of individuals, the most important first step is to estimate the 10-year ASCVD risk using the American College of Cardiology ASCVD Risk Estimator. In addition, it is important to evaluate for any ASCVD risk enhancers that exist. These recommendations are based primarily on the following 10-year risk categories: low risk (less than 5%), borderline risk (5% up to 7.5%), intermediate risk (7.5% up to 20%), and high risk (20% or greater). In general, the higher the 10-year ASCVD risk category and the greater number of concomitant ASCVD risk enhancers, the more likely that treatment with a statin will be recommended.

**Table 5. 2018 American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Guideline on the Management of Blood Cholesterol**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease (ASCVD) Risk Enhancers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical Factors</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Family history of premature ASCVD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Persistent elevated LDL-C ≥160 mg/dL (≥4.1 mmol/L)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Chronic kidney disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Metabolic syndrome</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Conditions specific to women (e.g. preeclampsia, premature menopause)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Inflammatory Diseases (especially rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, HIV)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ethnicity (e.g. South Asian ancestry)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lipid/Biomarkers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Persistently elevated triglycerides (≥175 mg/dL, [≥2.0 mmol/L])</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Elevated high-sensitivity C-reactive Protein (CRP) ≥2.0 mg/L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lipoprotein (a) levels ≥50 mg/dL (or ≥125 nmol/L)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• apoB ≥130 mg/dL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Current smoking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ankle-brachial index (ABI) &lt;0.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Abbreviations**: ASCVD = atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease; LDL-C = low density lipoprotein cholesterol; hs-CRP = high sensitivity C-reactive protein


**Management of Hypertriglyceridemia**

Elevated triglycerides can also increase the risk of cardiovascular disease. The 2018 ACC/AHA Cholesterol Treatment Guidelines outline two categories of elevated triglycerides: (1) moderate hypertriglyceridemia (fasting or nonfasting triglycerides 150 to 499 mg/dL) or (2) severe hypertriglyceridemia (fasting triglycerides 500 mg/dL or greater).[83] The following summarizes key general recommendations from the 2018 ACC/AHA
- **Adults 20 Years of Age and Older and Fasting or Nonfasting Triglyceride Level 175 to 499 mg/dL:** Clinicians should address and modify lifestyle factors as needed and optimally manage secondary factors, such as diabetes mellitus, chronic liver or kidney disease, or hypothyroidism. In addition, any medication that may increase triglycerides should, if possible, be stopped.

- **Adults 40 to 75 years of age with Moderate or Severe Hypertriglyceridemia and ASCVD risk of 7.5% or Higher:** The guidelines suggest it is reasonable to reevaluate the ASCVD after the individual addresses lifestyle and secondary factors; if triglycerides are persistently elevated, consider initiation or intensification of statin therapy.

- **Adults 40 to 75 years of age with Severe Hypertriglyceridemia and ASCVD risk of 7.5% or Higher:** A reasonable approach is to address other potential reversible causes of hypertriglyceridemia and initiate lipid-lowering therapy with a statin.

- **Adults with Severe Hypertriglyceridemia, especially Fasting Triglyceride Levels of 1,000 mg/dL or Greater:** The guidelines suggest it is reasonable to first address other causes of hypertriglyceridemia; if triglyceride levels remain elevated or increase, then implement a very low-fat diet, avoid alcohol and refined carbohydrates, increase consumption of omega-3 fatty acids, and start fibrate therapy if necessary to prevent pancreatitis.

### Special Considerations for People with HIV

Persons with HIV are estimated to have a 1.5 to 2-fold greater risk of developing ASCVD and at an earlier incident age.[103] The AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) Randomized Trial to Prevent Vascular Events in HIV (REPRIEVE) trial was a randomized, double-blind, international trial that enrolled 7,769 participants with HIV and low-to-moderate risk of cardiovascular disease to receive pitavastatin 4 mg or placebo.[104] The major goal of the study was to test whether statin therapy reduces the risk for major adverse cardiovascular events in persons with HIV.[104] The trial was stopped early because persons in the pitavastatin group had 35% fewer adverse cardiovascular events compared with those receiving a placebo after a median follow-up of 5.1 years.[104] The Adult and Adolescent ART Guidelines issued new guidance on the use of statins in persons with HIV as primary ASCVD prevention in February 2024, based on findings of the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) Randomized Trial to Prevent Vascular Events in HIV (REPRIEVE) Trial.[103,104] In general, the approach to secondary prevention of ASCVD in persons with HIV is the same as in persons without HIV.

### Mechanism of Lipid Disorders Associated with HIV

The pathophysiology of cardiovascular disease and dyslipidemia in HIV is multifactorial—it has been associated with traditional risk factors, such as hypertension, diabetes mellitus, dyslipidemia, family history, and tobacco use, as well as with HIV itself and antiretroviral therapy.[52,58] Effective antiretroviral therapy does not completely nullify the adverse cardiovascular impact from HIV, but it does significantly reduce it. Chronic HIV can lead to abnormalities in lipid levels, vascular stiffness, inflammation, and immune activation, even with effective antiretroviral therapy and virologic suppression.[105] Compared to individuals without HIV, people with HIV have been shown to have a higher prevalence of atypical, high-risk, noncalcified coronary plaques.[52,105]

### Effect of Antiretroviral Therapy on Lipids

Different antiretroviral therapies have distinct effects on lipid levels, with protease inhibitors generally causing the greatest increases (especially LDL and triglycerides) and integrase strand transfer inhibitors (INSTIs) exerting the least lipid effect; within classes, certain agents are recognized to cause more adverse lipid effects than others (Figure 6).[106,107] If an individual with HIV has abnormal lipid levels while taking antiretroviral therapy, a review of the antiretroviral regimen should be performed to identify medications that may be contributing to lipid abnormalities, particularly efavirenz, protease inhibitors, and boosting agents (ritonavir and cobicistat).[55] Modern preferred unboosted INSTI-based antiretroviral regimens generally do not adversely impact lipid parameters, and switching to an INSTI-based regimen from a boosted-protease
inhibitor can improve lipids.[108,109] Tenofovir DF, but not tenofovir alafenamide, typically lowers LDL and triglyceride levels.\[110]\] If a decision is made to change a patient’s existing antiretroviral therapy regimen to a more “lipid-friendly” antiretroviral regimen, the goal of maintaining viral suppression is paramount, and current and archived resistance mutations must be taken into consideration when deciding on the new regimen.\[107,111]\]

**Routine Monitoring of Lipid Profiles in People with HIV**

The following summarizes recommendations for monitoring lipid profiles in people with HIV.\[112]\]

- **Entry into Care:** At the time of entry into HIV care, a lipid profile should be ordered; if the test performed was a random lipid profile and it is abnormal, then a fasting lipid panel should be ordered.
- **Antiretroviral Initiation or Modification:** A lipid profile should be ordered at the time of initiating or changing antiretroviral therapy.
- **After Initiation or Modification of Antiretroviral Therapy:** Consider ordering a lipid profile 4 to 8 weeks after initiating or modifying antiretroviral therapy.
- **Routine Monitoring:** If the lipid profile is abnormal or the person has cardiovascular risk, then monitoring should be conducted every 12 months. If the lipid profile remains normal and there is no cardiovascular risk, then monitoring should be every 5 years.
- **Persons on Lipid-Lowering Therapy:** Persons receiving lipid-lowering therapy should have lipid monitoring individualized, and more frequent monitoring may be needed.

**Primary Prevention of ASCVD in People with HIV**

The following summarizes recommendations in the Adult and Adolescent ART Guidelines for the use of statins in persons with HIV as primary prevention of ASCVD.\[103]\]

**Age 40-75 Years and Low-to-Intermediate**
Osteoporosis

Overview

An estimated 53 million men and women in the United States have osteoporosis or low bone density, and up to 50% of postmenopausal White women and 20% of men suffer an osteoporosis-related fracture during their lifetime.[121,122,123,124] The USPSTF reported that by 2020 an estimated 12.3 million people in the United States who are older than 50 years of age will have osteoporosis.[121] Osteoporosis is associated with chronic pain, disability, decreased quality of life, and increased mortality.

Risk Factors for Osteoporotic Fractures

Key risk factors for osteoporotic fractures include increasing age, low body weight, female sex, postmenopausal for women, parental history of osteoporotic fracture, current tobacco use, excessive alcohol consumption, rheumatoid arthritis, vitamin D deficiency, low calcium intake, history of falls, and immobilization.[121,123] In addition, osteoporosis risk increases with prolonged exposure to certain medications, such as glucocorticoids, anticoagulants, anticonvulsants, aromatase inhibitors, cancer chemotherapeutic drugs, and gonadotropin-releasing hormone agonists.[122] Further, rates of osteoporotic fractures are higher in White than Black individuals.[123,124]

Screening for Osteoporosis

There is convincing evidence that screening for osteoporosis has predictive value for osteoporotic fractures in both women and men, and therapies are available to reduce fracture risk. Most commonly, screening is performed with the measurement of bone mineral density by dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA) of the hip and lumbar spine. In addition, the University of Sheffield, UK, developed the Fracture Risk Assessment (FRAX) tool, often referred to as the FRAX Calculation Tool, to estimate 10-year osteoporotic fracture risk based on age, race, body mass index (BMI), secondary causes of osteoporosis, personal and parental fracture history, tobacco and alcohol use, and previous DXA results if available. If previous DXA results are not available, the calculator can still be used. The FRAX tool has been studied throughout the world and provides country-specific risk assessment, which can be used to select appropriate candidates for osteoporosis screening and treatment.

Current Guidelines

Screening Recommendations

In the general population, the 2018 USPSTF Osteoporosis Screening Guidelines provide recommendations for three groups of adults: (1) women 65 years of age and older, (2) postmenopausal women younger than 65 years of age, and (3) men.[121]

- **Women 65 Years of Age and Older:** Screening for osteoporosis should be performed in all women 65 years of age and older. A DXA scan is most commonly used for screening.
- **Postmenopausal Women Younger than 65 Years of Age:** Screening for osteoporosis is recommended for postmenopausal women younger than 65 years of age who are at increased risk of osteoporosis, as determined by a clinical risk assessment tool, such as the FRAX Calculation Tool. More specifically, these guidelines recommend using the risk assessment tool for postmenopausal women younger than 65 who have at least one of the following risk factors for developing osteoporosis: parental history of hip fracture, smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, or low body weight.
- **Men:** There is no recommendation for or against screening for osteoporosis in men due to insufficient data. Note that guidelines issued by the National Osteoporosis Foundation recommend that all men 70 years of age and older and men 50 to 69 years of age with increased risk for osteoporosis should undergo bone mineral density screening with a DXA scan.[122]
Management Recommendations

In 2017, the American College of Physicians (ACP) released an evidence-based clinical practice guideline titled Treatment of Low Bone Density or Osteoporosis to Prevent Fractures in Men and Women.[123]

- **Treatment of Osteoporosis in Women**: The ACP guidelines recommend treatment of women with osteoporosis using bisphosphonates (including alendronate, risedronate, or zoledronic acid) or denosumab therapy and avoiding hormonal therapy or selective estrogen receptor modulators.[123] Treatment should generally be discontinued after 5 years. Monitoring for the progression of osteoporosis during treatment is not recommended. Continuing treatment after the initial 5 years is controversial, but may be beneficial for some women, particularly those whose bone mineral density remains in the osteoporotic range after 5 years of treatment.[125, 126]

- **Treatment of Osteoporosis in Men**: Treatment of men with osteoporosis should primarily involve bisphosphonates, though data is limited in this population.[123]

- **Treatment of Osteopenia in Women and Men**: The ACP guideline also addresses the complexities of treating women with osteopenia, and it recommends engaging women 65 years of age or older who are at high risk for fracture (e.g., T-score between -2.0 and -2.5) in a discussion of risks and benefits of treatment, taking into account individual patient preferences and fracture risk profile.[123] The National Osteoporosis Foundation more specifically recommends initiating treatment in women and men with osteopenia 50 years of age and older with a 10-year hip fracture risk greater than or equal to 3% or a 10-year major osteoporosis-related fracture risk greater than or equal to 20% based on the United States FRAX tool.[122]

Special Considerations for Persons with HIV

Lower bone density is more prevalent among persons with HIV, and this may be related to factors that are unique to persons with HIV, including increased inflammation, altered bone metabolism, and toxicities related to antiretroviral medications.[127, 128] Initiation of antiretroviral therapy has been associated with a 2 to 6% decrease in bone mineral density during the first 2 years of therapy, which varies with the specific antiretroviral regimen used: tenofovir DF and boosted protease inhibitors, in particular, have been linked to greater loss of bone density compared with other antiretroviral agents.[129, 130] In contrast, tenofovir alafenamide does not cause significant loss of bone mineral density.[131, 132] The following summarizes recommendations from the HIVMA/IDSA Primary Care Guidance and the Recommendations for Evaluation and Management of Bone Disease in HIV.[16, 129]

Screening Recommendations for Persons with HIV

- All postmenopausal women with HIV and men 50 years of age and older with HIV should undergo bone mineral density screening with a DXA scan.[16] Bone mineral density should also be assessed with a DXA scan in all adults with HIV who have a major risk factor for fragility fracture, including personal history of fragility fracture, chronic glucocorticoid treatment (greater than or equal to 5 mg of prednisone daily or equivalent for at least 3 months), or high risk of falls.
- In men with HIV 40 to 49 years of age and premenopausal women with HIV 40 years of age and older without a major risk factor for osteoporotic fracture, clinicians should assess fracture risk using the Fracture Risk Assessment Tool (FRAX Calculation Tool) specific to their country and the patient’s race/ethnicity. Risk assessment should be performed every 2 to 3 years or when a new clinical risk factor develops.
- When using the FRAX tool, some experts recommend checking the “secondary osteoporosis” box to better adjust the estimate, considering the increased risk of osteoporosis conferred by HIV. A DXA scan should be performed if the FRAX tool determines the 10-year risk of major osteoporotic fracture to be greater than 10%.
- When interpreting DXA results, use T-scores for postmenopausal women and men 50 years of age and older and use Z-scores for persons younger than 50 years of age.
- Optimal screening intervals (for DXA or FRAX assessment) are not clear for persons with HIV. Consider
repeating a DXA scan after 1 to 2 years for individuals who have advanced osteopenia (T-score -2.0 to -2.49) and after 5 years in those with mild-to-moderate osteopenia (T-score of -1.01 to -1.99); for those who have a normal DXA, guidance on when to repeat screening is not given.

- Vitamin D screening is recommended in all individuals with low bone mineral density or history of a fragility fracture; it should be considered in persons who have any of the major known risk factors for low vitamin D levels (e.g., dark skin, dietary deficiency, avoidance of sun exposure, malabsorption, obesity, chronic kidney disease, or treatment with regimens containing efavirenz).
- Routine measurement of serum or urine markers of bone turnover or inflammation for screening or treatment monitoring is not recommended for persons with HIV.

**Management Recommendations for Persons with HIV**

- Persons with osteoporosis (or at risk of osteoporosis) should, if possible, avoid tenofovir DF and boosted protease inhibitors.
- For individuals at high risk for osteoporosis, dietary management strategies should be employed, which include ensuring adequate calcium intake and, if indicated, vitamin D supplementation.
- Vitamin D supplementation should be titrated to a target serum 25-hydroxy vitamin D level of approximately 30 ng/mL or higher.
- Lifestyle modifications for persons with osteopenia or osteoporosis include regular weight-bearing and muscle-strengthening exercises, avoidance of falls, smoking cessation, and reduction in alcohol consumption.

**Additional Evaluation for Persons with HIV**

- For persons with HIV who have osteopenia or osteoporosis, possible treatable secondary causes for decreased bone mineral density should be identified and addressed; these secondary causes include smoking, alcohol use, sedentary lifestyle, low BMI, exposure to medications associated with bone loss (glucocorticoids, phenytoin, proton pump inhibitors, thiazolidinediones), vitamin D deficiency, renal disease, hyperparathyroidism, thyroid disease, and hypogonadism. If the person has osteopenia and a reversible secondary cause, the underlying cause should be addressed without a bisphosphonate, if possible, and a repeat DXA should be obtained within 1 year.[16]
- It is important to rule out osteomalacia (softening of the bones due to demineralization, which can be caused by tenofovir DF-induced renal phosphate wasting and/or vitamin D deficiency) before treating with bisphosphonates; low vitamin D and calcium supplementation can also blunt the response to bisphosphonates and ideally should precede initiation of bisphosphonate therapy.

**Pharmacotherapy Recommendations**

- In general, the management of osteopenia or osteoporosis in persons with HIV should follow established guidelines for the general population without HIV; several exceptions exist, as outlined below.[129]
- In 2017, the American College of Physicians (ACP) released an evidence-based clinical practice guideline titled Treatment of Low Bone Density or Osteoporosis to Prevent Fractures in Men and Women, which recommends initiating pharmacotherapy in women and men with osteoporosis.[123] The guideline also addresses the complexities of treating women with osteopenia, and it recommends engaging women 65 years of age or older who are at high risk for fracture (i.e., T-score between -2.0 and -2.5) in a discussion of the risks and benefits of treatment. The National Osteoporosis Foundation more specifically recommends initiating treatment in women and men with osteopenia 50 years of age and older who have an estimated 10-year hip fracture risk greater than or equal to 3% or a 10-year major osteoporosis-related fracture risk greater than or equal to 20% (based on the FRAX Calculation Tool for persons in the United States).[122]
- When therapy is indicated for persons with HIV at risk for osteoporotic fractures, the use of alendronate or zoledronic acid is preferred, since other therapies have not been adequately studied in persons with HIV. This differs from the 2017 ACP guideline, which also includes risedronate and
denosumab as possible initial drugs of choice in the general population.[123]

- Treatment duration should be individualized, though the 2017 ACP guideline recommends discontinuing treatment after 5 years in the general population.[123]
- Bisphosphonates have been associated with adverse effects, including esophagitis, osteonecrosis of the jaw, and atypical femoral fractures; patients on these medications should be monitored clinically for these outcomes.[133,134]
- Some experts would repeat a DXA scan after 3 to 5 years of pharmacotherapy. For individuals with worsening bone mineral density, a new fracture, greater than 1 cm of height loss, or poor adherence to oral bisphosphonate therapy, alternate treatment, including intravenous zoledronic acid or teriparatide could be considered, though data are limited with teriparatide and other osteoporosis pharmacotherapies in persons with HIV.
- Individuals receiving bisphosphonates with evidence of worsening bone mineral density, new fractures, suspected osteomalacia, or intolerance of treatment may benefit from referral to a bone health specialist.

**Drug Interactions**

Drug interactions are not expected with concurrent bisphosphonate and antiretroviral therapy, but caution should be used if calcium supplementation is administered in the form of an antacid such as calcium carbonate, as polyvalent cations can interfere with the absorption of atazanavir, bictegravir, dolutegravir, elvitegravir, and rilpivirine.[86,92,115] Calcium-containing antacids must be separated from some antiretroviral medications, and prescribing information for the specific antiretroviral medication should be followed.[86]
Renal Disease

Overview

Based on NHANES data collected from 2015 through 2018, the overall prevalence of chronic kidney disease (CKD) among adults in the United States older than 20 years was approximately 15%.\[71\] The 2012 KDIGO Clinical Practice Guideline defines chronic kidney disease as abnormalities of kidney structure or function present for greater than 3 months, with implications for health.\[135\] Historically, in 2002, the National Kidney Foundation–Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative (NKF-KDOQI) proposed a chronic kidney disease staging system based on glomerular filtration rate (GFR) stages 1 through 5 (Figure 7).\[136,137\] The 2012 KDIGO Clinical Practice Guideline recommends classifying chronic kidney disease by cause, glomerular filtration rate category, and albuminuria category in recognition that GFR and albuminuria are complementary and independent predictors of important clinical outcomes, including CKD progression, end-stage renal disease, and all-cause mortality (Figure 8).\[135\]

Special Considerations for Persons with HIV

In persons with HIV, the risk of developing chronic kidney disease is higher in individuals who are older in age, female, or Black and in those who have CD4 counts less than 200 cells/mm\(^3\), elevated HIV RNA levels, or comorbid conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and hepatitis C.\[85\] Earlier in the HIV epidemic in the United States, HIV-related kidney disease predominantly resulted from sequelae of HIV infection, such as with HIV-associated nephropathy (HIVAN) or immune complex disease; these disorders most often occurred in persons with untreated HIV, particularly those with a low CD4 cell count.\[138,139\] In the current era, since most people with HIV achieve virologic suppression on antiretroviral therapy and have a near normal expected lifespan, the cause of renal disease has shifted from HIV-related disease to chronic comorbid conditions, such as hypertension, diabetes, or chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection.\[138,139\] In addition, certain antiretroviral agents, such as tenofovir DF, can play a role in causing chronic kidney disease in persons with HIV. If chronic kidney disease develops, it has significant implications for cardiovascular disease and all-cause mortality.

Guidelines and Recommendations for Persons with HIV

The HIV Medical Association (HIVMA) has provided a comprehensive HIVMA CKD Clinical Practice Guideline that addresses renal disease among persons with HIV, and it provides management recommendations.\[85\] Staging for chronic kidney disease in the HIVMA CKD Clinical Practice Guideline follows the KDIGO definitions outlined above.\[85\] The following summarizes key recommendations regarding the evaluation, management, and prevention of renal disease in persons with HIV, with an emphasis on recommendations in the Adult and Adolescent ART Guidelines and the HIVMA CKD Clinical Practice Guideline.\[85,112\]

Baseline Evaluation and Routine Monitoring for Renal Disease

- Persons with HIV should have a creatinine-based estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) at the time of HIV diagnosis, when antiretroviral therapy is initiated or changed, and twice a year as long as renal function remains normal.\[85,112\]
- Persons with HIV should have a urinalysis at entry into care.\[112\] In addition, urine glucose and urine protein should be assessed prior to starting an antiretroviral regimen that contains tenofovir DF or tenofovir alafenamide, and it should be monitored while receiving either of these medications.\[112\] Proteinuria of 1+ or greater on urinalysis should be quantified with either an albumin-to-creatinine ratio (often called a urine microalbumin test) or a protein-to-creatinine ratio. Both the albumin-to-creatinine ratio and protein-to-creatinine ratio can be obtained from a spot urine sample or from a 24-hour urine collection.
- The HIVMA/IDSA Primary Care Guidance provides a more liberal recommendation by suggesting that the frequency of monitoring for renal function, such as with chemistry panels and urinary
abnormalities, depends on the need to monitor for antiretroviral toxicities and the presence of underlying medical conditions that can increase risk of CKD, including diabetes, hypertension, HCV, nephrotoxic medications, genetic predisposition, or advanced HIV disease.\[16\] In those taking tenofovir DF, biannual monitoring for renal function and urinary abnormalities is recommended. Otherwise, urinalysis should be monitored annually among those at risk for kidney disease.\[16\]

- Workup for new-onset kidney disease in persons with HIV should include serum chemistry panel, urinalysis, quantitative measure of albuminuria, assessment of glucose and blood pressure control, markers of proximal tubular dysfunction, renal sonogram, and medication review to determine any agents that may be nephrotoxic or require renal dosing.

**Referral for Persons with HIV and Renal Impairment**

- Persons with HIV should be referred to a nephrologist if GFR declines more than 25% from baseline and to a level less than 60 mL/min/1.73 m\(^2\) that fails to resolve with the removal of any potential nephrotoxic drugs.\[85\] Additional indications for referral include albuminuria greater than 300 mg/day, hematuria with either proteinuria or elevated blood pressure, and advanced kidney disease with GFR less than 30 mL/min/1.73 m\(^2\).
- Individuals with HIV and end-stage renal disease should undergo evaluation for their potential candidacy for renal transplantation.

**HIV-Associated Nephropathy (HIVAN)**

All individuals with HIV-associated nephropathy (HIVAN) should receive treatment with effective antiretroviral therapy at diagnosis.\[85,138\] Antiretroviral therapy should not be withheld due to the severity of renal dysfunction or low CD4 cell count. For refractory HIVAN, treatment may include an ACE inhibitor or ARB, and possibly also corticosteroids.\[85,138\]

**Antiretroviral Therapy and Chronic Kidney Disease**

Certain antiretroviral agents can cause nephrotoxicity, usually through tubular injury with tenofovir DF or crystal nephropathy from atazanavir or indinavir.\[139,140,141,142\] Antiretroviral therapy-related nephrotoxicity from tenofovir DF most frequently involves proximal tubular nephropathy, which can progress to Fanconi syndrome.\[138\] Several studies suggest that the risk for tenofovir DF-related kidney injury increases in the setting of older age, lower body weight, diabetes, hypertension, and with concomitant use of a PI, particularly ritonavir-boosted protease inhibitors.\[85,143\] With antiretroviral-associated nephrotoxicity, full renal recovery does not always occur after withdrawal of the offending drug. Tenofovir DF (and any coformulations that include tenofovir DF) should, if feasible, be avoided in persons with a baseline GFR less than 60 mL/min/1.73 m\(^2\).\[85\] If tenofovir DF is used in a person with a creatinine clearance less than 50 mL/min, a dose reduction is required. Tenofovir alafenamide, a prodrug of tenofovir, achieves higher intracellular but lower plasma levels of tenofovir than tenofovir DF. In addition, tenofovir alafenamide is not transmitted into the proximal tubular cells via the organic anion transporters 1 and 3.\[138,142\] For these reasons, tenofovir alafenamide causes significantly less nephrotoxicity than tenofovir DF.\[144\] Although tenofovir alafenamide is less nephrotoxic than tenofovir DF, rare cases of nephrotoxicity associated with tenofovir alafenamide have been reported.\[145,146,147\] Tenofovir alafenamide-emtricitabine is not recommended for persons with a creatinine clearance less than 30 mL/min; tenofovir alafenamide (alone) is not recommended for persons with a creatinine clearance less than 15 mL/min.

**Evaluating Tenofovir DF-Associated Nephrotoxicity**

For individuals who develop renal dysfunction in the setting of tenofovir DF use, it can be challenging to determine whether tenofovir DF is the cause. Measuring serum or urinary markers of proximal tubular dysfunction may be helpful in this scenario (Figure 9).\[85\]

- Two indicators are highly specific markers of proximal tubular dysfunction: (1) glycosuria with normal
serum glucose and (2) urinary phosphorus wasting with low serum phosphorus. Additional markers that suggest proximal tubular dysfunction include serum parameters (hypokalemia and decreased serum bicarbonate) and urinary abnormalities (urine albumin-to-protein ratio less than 0.4).

- Phosphorus wasting can be determined by fractional excretion of phosphate. Normal fractional excretion of phosphate is generally defined as less than 10%, and impaired fractional excretion of phosphate is defined as above 20%; thus, a fractional excretion of phosphate above 20% raises the likelihood of tenofovir toxicity, whereas a result below 10% makes tenofovir toxicity unlikely.[85] See the Fractional Excretion of Phosphate Calculator in the Tools and Calculators section.
- Proteinuria is not specific for proximal tubular dysfunction but should also be included in the workup because data suggest that a lower albumin-to-protein ratio of less than 0.4 may be useful in distinguishing proteinuria due to proximal tubular dysfunction (secondary to tenofovir toxicity) from proteinuria due to glomerular disease.[85]

Criteria for Discontinuing Tenofovir DF

Regardless of the cause, the HIVMA CKD Clinical Practice Guideline states that tenofovir DF should be discontinued in persons with HIV who experience a decline in GFR greater than 25% and to a level less than 60 mL/min/1.73m², but this is particularly important when there is evidence that tenofovir DF is the cause (e.g., evidence of proximal tubular dysfunction or new-onset or worsening proteinuria).[85]

Renal Dosing of Antiretroviral Medications

The CKD-Epidemiology collaboration (CKD-EPI) or Cockcroft-Gault equation should be used to estimate creatinine clearance when dosing antiretroviral therapy or other drugs that may require renal dosing. See the Creatinine Clearance Calculator and the Glomerular Filtration Rate (GFR) Calculator in the Tools and Calculator section of this website.

Medications Used in HIV Care that May Cause Benign Elevations in Serum Creatinine

In contrast to tenofovir DF-induced changes in renal function that generally signify kidney damage, the medications bictegravir, cobicistat, dolutegravir, rilpivirine, and trimethoprim may decrease tubular creatinine secretion and raise serum creatinine without altering actual renal function.[16,85] In these settings, a 10 to 20% elevation (or 0.1 to 0.2 mg/dL increase) in serum creatinine may be expected.[148] Elevations in serum creatinine typically occur in the first few weeks of therapy and subsequently plateau.[149] The additive effect of these medications (e.g., when dolutegravir is combined with rilpivirine) is unclear. After initiation of these medications, a repeat serum creatinine should be obtained within one month to establish a new baseline. If the creatinine is elevated beyond the expected elevation on the first check, repeat the serum creatinine to get a better marker for true renal function.[138,150,151,152]

ASCVD Prevention in Persons with HIV and Renal Disease

- **Aspirin:** Some experts consider people with HIV and chronic kidney disease as candidates for low-dose aspirin (75 to 100 mg/day), though the risk of bleeding and benefits of primary cardiovascular disease prevention should be weighed in the decision process.[85] Note the 2019 ACC/AHA Primary CVD Prevention Guideline recommendation against the use of aspirin for primary prevention of ASCVD in adults at any age who are at increased risk of bleeding, including those with chronic kidney disease.[46] In addition, the USPSTF recommends against initiating low-dose aspirin as primary prevention in adults 60 years or older. In adults 40 to 59 years with a 10-year ASCVD risk of 10% or greater, which may be seen in persons with HIV and renal disease, the decision to initiate low-dose aspirin for primary prevention of CVD should be individualized.[44]

- **Lipid-Lowering Therapy:** In accordance with the 2018 ACC/AHA Cholesterol Treatment Guidelines, chronic kidney disease is considered an ASCVD risk enhancer.[83,153] Accordingly, many persons with HIV and kidney disease will receive statin therapy. Although there are no studies of statin therapy in persons with both HIV and chronic kidney disease, the HIVMA CKD Clinical Practice Guideline cites
evidence of statin benefit in persons without HIV who have chronic kidney disease.\cite{85} There is also accumulating evidence that statin therapy slows kidney function decline in persons with HIV on antiretroviral therapy.\cite{154} Because studies of patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) on hemodialysis have not shown a reduction in cardiovascular events or mortality from statin therapy, statins are not recommended in this group (regardless of HIV status).
Testosterone Deficiency

Overview

In the male adult population in the United States, testosterone deficiency is common, occurring in approximately 10% of males 18 years of age and older.\[155\] In the United States and the United Kingdom, trends from 2000-2011 showed that initiation of testosterone therapy increased, despite steady rates in testosterone testing frequency and in laboratory-diagnosed testosterone deficiency.\[155\]

Testosterone Screening Guidance

The 2018 Endocrine Society Testosterone Therapy Guidelines provide recommendations for testosterone deficiency screening, which are summarized as follows.\[156\]

Indications for Testosterone Screening

A laboratory workup for testosterone deficiency should only be performed if the person under evaluation has signs or symptoms that suggest testosterone deficiency.\[156\] Symptoms suggestive of testosterone deficiency include a decrease in libido, infrequent spontaneous erections, erectile dysfunction, fatigue, or depression; signs suggestive of testosterone deficiency include gynecomastia, loss of pubic hair, small testes, low bone mineral density, decreased muscle mass, or incomplete or delayed sexual development.\[156\] The 2018 Endocrine Society Testosterone Therapy Guidelines recommend against routine screening of men in the general population for hypogonadism.\[156\]

Optimizing Laboratory Screening for Testosterone Deficiency

- The most accurate testosterone measurements are those obtained in the morning, ideally between 8 and 10 A.M., as testosterone levels peak in the morning and tend to wane over the course of the day.
- A fasting blood draw is ideal, as food intake or glucose may suppress testosterone concentrations, leading to falsely decreased testosterone levels.
- In persons with a condition that can alter sex hormone binding globulin, a free testosterone level should be obtained, in addition to a total testosterone level.
- The testosterone assay used should be one that has been certified with an accuracy-based standardization or quality control program.
- A testosterone level should not be checked during an acute illness or in those who are taking certain medications (e.g., opioids or anabolic steroids) that may suppress testosterone concentrations.

Confirming a Low Testosterone Screening Result

If a fasting morning testosterone level is low, this should be repeated and confirmed. A laboratory diagnosis of testosterone deficiency is made when a person has two documented decreased morning fasting serum testosterone levels. Since low testosterone concentrations often occur without clinical symptoms or signs of testosterone deficiency, a low testosterone level alone does not establish a clinical diagnosis of hypogonadism.\[156\]

Recommendations for Testosterone Therapy

The 2018 Endocrine Society Testosterone Therapy Guidelines provide recommendations for testosterone therapy for individuals with documented testosterone deficiency, which are summarized as follows.\[156\]

Indications to Start Testosterone Therapy

If an individual under evaluation has had two decreased morning fasting serum testosterone levels and has
signs or symptoms consistent with androgen deficiency (as outlined above), then testosterone therapy is indicated if, after a discussion with the individual that addresses benefits and potential adverse effects, such as erythrocytosis and cardiovascular events, the individual agrees.[157] In addition, prior to initiating testosterone therapy, the clinician should determine whether any contraindications exist for testosterone therapy.

Baseline Evaluation Prior to Initiating Testosterone Therapy

- A luteinizing hormone (LH) and follicle hormone (FSH) level should be obtained to distinguish between primary (testicular) and secondary (pituitary-hypothalamic) hypogonadism. An elevated LH and FSH suggest primary hypogonadism, whereas a low or inappropriately normal LH and FSH suggest secondary hypogonadism.
- A hematocrit should be obtained.
- In hypogonadal men 40 years of age and older at high risk for prostate cancer, a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) and digital rectal examination should be offered.
- The patient’s past medical history or problem list should be reviewed to rule out any contraindicating conditions.

Contraindications for Testosterone Therapy

Testosterone therapy should not be given to persons who have any of the following listed disorders:

- Breast or prostate cancer
- A palpable prostate nodule or induration
- Prostate PSA greater than 4 ng/mL, or a PSA level greater than 3 ng/mL in men at increased risk of prostate cancer who have not undergone urological evaluation
- Elevated hematocrit greater than 48% (greater than 50% for those living at high altitude)
- Untreated severe obstructive sleep apnea
- Severe obstructive lower urinary tract symptoms
- Uncontrolled heart failure
- Myocardial infarction or stroke within the last 6 months
- Thrombophilia
- Those planning fertility in the near term

Initiating Testosterone Therapy

If the above criteria are met, and the patient and provider decide to initiate testosterone replacement therapy, the 2018 Endocrine Society Testosterone Therapy Guidelines recommend initiating testosterone replacement therapy using any of the suggested regimens based on personal preference, pharmacokinetics of the formulation, treatment burden, and cost. The FDA-approved testosterone replacement therapy options in the United States include intramuscular injection, transdermal gel, transdermal patch, an axillary solution, a buccal bioadhesive tablet, pellets, or a nasal gel.[156] Of note, testosterone is a controlled substance.

Monitoring After Initiation of Testosterone Replacement Therapy

- Monitoring to assess symptom response should take place 3 to 12 months after treatment initiation and then annually thereafter.
- Laboratory monitoring of testosterone concentrations should take place 3 to 6 months after initiation of testosterone replacement therapy, with the aim to achieve testosterone concentrations in the mid-normal range.
- Check hematocrit and hemoglobin levels 3 to 6 months after starting treatment and then annually.
- Monitor for prostate cancer risk during the first year after initiating testosterone replacement therapy (including checking a PSA level 3 to 12 months after starting testosterone and continuing with routine prostate cancer screening after 1 year).
Special Considerations in Persons with HIV

The interplay between testosterone deficiency and HIV is complex and has changed over the last several decades as a result of antiretroviral therapy. Available data suggest that men with HIV have a prevalence of testosterone deficiency that is roughly twice as high as in men without HIV.\[158,159,160,161]\n
Screening Recommendations for Persons with HIV

The following summarizes the HIVMA/IDSA Primary Care Guidance recommendations for testosterone screening in persons with HIV.\[16]\n
- Screening for testosterone deficiency in men with HIV should only be performed if the individual has symptoms of testosterone deficiency.
- The laboratory evaluation for testosterone deficiency should include a total testosterone level and a free testosterone level; the rationale for obtaining a free testosterone level is that HIV is associated with increased sex hormone binding globulin concentrations, which can lead to falsely elevated total testosterone levels.
- Blood samples to evaluate testosterone levels should be obtained in the morning, preferably before 10 a.m.
- All screening samples that are below the limit of normal should be confirmed with a repeat testosterone level.
- If an individual with HIV has low testosterone confirmed on two samples, measurement of LH and FSH should be performed to determine whether they have a primary (testicular) or central (pituitary or hypothalamic) cause for the testosterone deficiency.

Testosterone Replacement Therapy in Persons with HIV

The following summarizes HIVMA/IDSA Primary Care Guidance recommendations for testosterone replacement therapy in cisgender men with HIV.\[16]\n
- **Indications to Start Testosterone Therapy**: For cisgender men, testosterone replacement therapy should be prescribed with caution and only in those with symptomatic hypogonadism, given the potential long-term side effects that can occur with chronic testosterone use, particularly cardiac adverse effects.
- **Testosterone Replacement Therapy**: Persons with HIV should be treated with the same testosterone preparations and doses as in persons without HIV, as outlined above.
- **Monitoring on Testosterone Therapy**: Persons with HIV who are receiving testosterone replacement therapy should have the same monitoring as in persons without HIV, as outlined above.
Tobacco Use and Smoking Cessation

Overview

Tobacco use is a worldwide epidemic and is the leading preventable cause of death, disease, and disability in the United States. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that about 1 in 5 adults use tobacco products.[162] Tobacco use is a chronic disease and often requires behavioral support, pharmacologic therapy, and multiple attempts to quit. Tobacco use treatments are available and effective, and clinicians should be aware of best practices for counseling and treatment.

Guidelines for Tobacco Cessation

In 2008, the USPSTF released a clinical practice guideline for treating tobacco use and dependence.[163] This clinical guideline summarized the effectiveness of pharmacotherapy and concluded that certain pharmacotherapies are more effective than others, certain combinations are more effective than others, and the combination of counseling and medication is more effective than either alone (Figure 10).[163] In 2015 and 2021, the USPSTF released recommendations for Behavioral and Pharmacotherapy Interventions for Tobacco Smoking Cessation in Adults, Including Pregnant People, and these recommendations were updated in 2021.[164,165] The USPSTF recommends that clinicians ask all adults about tobacco use, advise persons using tobacco to stop, and provide behavioral interventions and FDA-approved pharmacotherapies.[165] In 2018, the American College of Cardiology (ACC) published a decision pathway incorporating new evidence, for tobacco cessation treatment in adults; the following summarizes key points from the ACC recommendations.[166]

- The 5A’s: ask about tobacco use at every visit, advise all tobacco users to quit, assess willingness to quit, assist the individual in quitting (medications, counseling), and arrange follow-up contact.
- Telephonic tobacco quitlines may be able to provide intensive tobacco cessation counseling (1-800-QUITNOW). Intensive counseling has been proven more effective than brief intervention.
- Pharmacologic interventions should be offered as a component of smoking cessation programs. There are three main types of medications that have been shown to increase long-term smoking abstinence rates and are recommended for use in smoking cessation: varenicline, nicotine replacement products (gum, inhaler, lozenge, nasal spray, patch), and sustained-release bupropion (Table 6).
- Within 2 to 4 weeks of a quit attempt, follow-up contact with the individual attempting to quit is recommended, either in person or via telephone or electronic health record portal. This follow-up contact is important for monitoring tobacco cessation treatment, especially since the risk of smoking relapse is high in the immediate period after a quit attempt.
- Evidence regarding the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (e-cigarettes, vaping) for tobacco cessation is insufficient to make recommendations.
- Evidence is also insufficient to assess the risks versus benefits of pharmacotherapy interventions for tobacco cessation in pregnant women.

Additional Pharmacologic Considerations

Despite early data that raised concerns about the cardiovascular safety of varenicline (and a warning on the package insert about this risk, especially in patients with known cardiovascular disease), a systematic review and meta-analysis concluded in 2016 that these concerns were unfounded; later that year, the FDA removed the varenicline black box warning.[166,167] After the release of the 2018 ACC guidelines, multiple reports have generated alarming concerns about the safety of vaping, and most experts would now advise extreme caution when considering electronic nicotine delivery systems.[168,169,170]

Special Considerations for Persons with HIV

Impact of Smoking in Persons with HIV
Individuals with HIV smoke at approximately twice the rate of those without HIV.[171,172] Among persons with HIV, one study in the United States found no difference in the prevalence of smoking in women versus men.[173] This finding contrasts with the overall United States population, where tobacco use is substantially higher among men than women.[174,175] Smoking is linked to multiple medical problems among individuals with HIV, including major cardiovascular disease, non-AIDS-defining cancers, and bacterial pneumonia.[176] In the HIV Outpatient Study, a prospective observational cohort study of persons with HIV receiving care since 1993, the attributable risk of incident cardiovascular disease events for tobacco smoking was 26.7%, which was similar to the attributable risk associated with baseline CD4 count less than 500 cells/mm³ and greater than the attributable risks associated with male sex or diabetes.[58]

**Guidance for Smoking Cessation in Persons with HIV**

The major tobacco cessation guidelines do not address smoking cessation in persons with HIV, and the HIVMA/IDSA Primary Care Guidance does not provide recommendations for specific interventions related to smoking cessation.[16,163,164,166] In a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial in France that involved 248 adults with HIV, investigators compared a 3-month course of varenicline in combination with smoking cessation counseling versus placebo with counseling.[177] At 48 weeks following the randomized intervention, a higher proportion of participants in the combination varenicline plus smoking cessation counseling arm had abstained from smoking as compared with the placebo-counseling arm.[177] There are no significant drug interactions between varenicline and antiretroviral therapy, though interactions can occur between bupropion and antiretroviral medications that may result in lower bupropion levels.[93]
Summary Points

- Cardiovascular diseases are an area of special concern to people with HIV, and cardiovascular risk reduction should be a priority.
- Hypertension in persons with HIV should be managed based on the same guidelines used for people without HIV, except that calcium channel blockers should be avoided with concomitant use of protease inhibitors or cobicistat.
- For people with HIV who are taking suppressive antiretroviral therapy and who would benefit from statin therapy, the preferred options are atorvastatin, rosuvastatin, and pitavastatin. Simvastatin and lovastatin should be avoided due to drug interactions with certain antiretroviral medications.
- People with HIV should undergo regular screening for the development of diabetes mellitus.
- People with HIV at increased risk for kidney disease should have routine laboratory monitoring of renal function. The risk of developing renal disease is higher for individuals with a CD4 count of less than 200 cells/mm$^3$, elevated HIV RNA levels, Black race, female sex, older age, diabetes mellitus, and hypertension.
- Tenofovir DF carries a risk of nephrotoxicity in persons with HIV that is increased in persons with lower body weight, a lower creatinine clearance at tenofovir DF initiation, or receipt of a protease inhibitor boosted with ritonavir.
- All postmenopausal women and all men 50 years of age and older should receive DXA scans.
- Persons with HIV smoke at twice the rate of those without HIV, and persons with HIV who take antiretroviral therapy and who smoke lose more years of life to smoking than to HIV.

- Among persons with HIV, Kaposi's sarcoma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and lung cancer are the most common cancers. Since 2003, the number of non-AIDS-defining cancers has exceeded the number of AIDS-defining cancers.

- Colon cancer, breast cancer, and prostate cancer screening recommendations are the same for persons with HIV as for the general population. Due to disproportional risks of developing cervical and anal cancer among individuals with HIV, these cancers warrant different screening protocols.
Citations


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Figures

Figure 1 Summary of Three Aspirin Trials for Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease

Figure 2 (Image Series) - Cardiovascular Risk in Persons with HIV (Image Series) - Figure 2 (Image Series) - Cardiovascular Risk in Persons with HIV
Image 2A: Kaiser Observational Study (1996-2001): Coronary Heart Disease Hospitalization and Myocardial Infarction

Figure 2 (Image Series) - Cardiovascular Risk in Persons with HIV
Image 2B: Veterans Aging Cohort: Rates of Acute Myocardial Infarction by HIV Status and Age Group

Figure 3 Prevalence of Hypertension Among Adults 18 Years of Age and Older, by Gender and Age Group, NHANES, 2017-2018

**Figure 4 2017 Hypertension Guidelines: Categories of Blood Pressure for Adults**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blood Pressure Category</th>
<th>Systolic</th>
<th>Diastolic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Normal</strong></td>
<td>&lt;120 mm Hg</td>
<td>&lt;80 mm Hg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elevated</strong></td>
<td>120 – 129 mm Hg</td>
<td>&lt;80 mm Hg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hypertension Stage 1</strong></td>
<td>130 – 139 mm Hg</td>
<td>80 – 89 mm Hg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hypertension Stage 2</strong></td>
<td>≥140 mm Hg</td>
<td>≥90 mm Hg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Individuals with SBP and DBP in 2 categories should be designated to the higher BP category.*
Figure 5 American College of Cardiology-American Heart Association Cholesterol Guidelines: Intensity of Statins


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High-Intensity (Lowers LDL–C by ≥50%)</th>
<th>Moderate-Intensity (Lowers LDL–C by 30-49%)</th>
<th>Low-Intensity (Lowers LDL–C by &lt;30%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atorvastatin 40-80 mg QD</td>
<td>Pitavastatin 4 mg QD</td>
<td>Simvastatin 10 mg QD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosuvastatin 20-40 mg QD</td>
<td>Atorvastatin 20 mg QD</td>
<td>Pravastatin 10-20 mg QD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rosuvastatin 10 mg QD</td>
<td>Lovastatin 20 mg QD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Simvastatin 20-40 mg QD</td>
<td>Fluvastatin 20-40 mg QD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pravastatin 40-80 mg QD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lovastatin 40-80 mg QD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fluvastatin XL 80 mg QD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fluvastatin 40 mg BID</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 6 Impact of Antiretroviral Medications on Lipid Levels

Figure 7 GFR Categories in Chronic Kidney Disease

Figure 8 Prognosis of Chronic Kidney Disease by GFR and Albuminuria Categories: KIDGO 2012

Abbreviations: GFR = glomerular filtration rate

Figure 9 Common Laboratory Indicators of Proximal Tubular Dysfunction

Figure 10 Effectiveness and Abstinence Rates for Various Medications at 6 Months after Quitting

Table 1. U.S. Multi-Society Task Force on Colorectal Cancer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multi-Society Task Force Ranking of Current Colorectal Cancer Screening Tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tier 1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Colonoscopy every 10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Annual fecal immunochemical test (FIT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tier 2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• CT colonography every 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• FIT-fecal DNA every 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Flexible sigmoidoscopy every 10 years (or every 5 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tier 3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Capsule colonoscopy every 5 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Available Tests Not Currently Recommended**
- Septin 9

Source:
### Table 2. U.S. Multi-Society Task Force on Colorectal Cancer

#### US Multi-Society Task Force Recommendations for Post-Colonoscopy Follow-Up in Average-Risk Adults With Normal Colonoscopy or Adenomas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline Colonoscopy: Most Advanced Finding(s)</th>
<th>Recommended Surveillance Interval</th>
<th>Strength of Recommendation</th>
<th>Quality of Evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>10 years&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1–2 tubular adenomas &lt;10 mm</td>
<td>7-10 years&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3–4 tubular adenomas &lt;10 mm</td>
<td>3-5 years</td>
<td>Weak</td>
<td>Very low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5–10 tubular adenomas &lt;10 mm</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adenoma &gt;10 mm</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adenoma with tubulovillous or villous histology</td>
<td>3 years&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adenoma with high-grade dysplasia</td>
<td>3 years&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;10 adenomas on single examination&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>Weak</td>
<td>Very low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piecemeal resection of adenoma ≥20 mm</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Moderate&lt;sup&gt;f&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup> All recommendations assume examination complete to cecum with bowel preparation adequate to detect lesions >5 mm in size; recommendations do not apply to individuals with a hereditary CRC syndrome, personal history of inflammatory bowel disease, personal history of hereditary cancer syndrome, serrated polyposis syndrome, malignant polyp, personal history of CRC, or family history of CRC, and must be judiciously applied to such individuals, favoring the shortest indicated interval based on either history or polyp findings.

<sup>b</sup> Follow-up may be with colonoscopy or other screening modality for average-risk individuals.

<sup>c</sup> Patients with recommendations issued before 2020 for shorter than 7- to 10-year follow-up after diagnosis of 1–2 tubular adenomas may follow original recommendations. If feasible, physicians may re-evaluate patients previously recommended an interval shorter than 10 y and reasonably choose to provide an updated recommendation for 7- to 10-year follow-up, taking into account factors such as quality of baseline examination, polyp history, and patient preferences.

<sup>d</sup> Assumes high confidence of complete resection.

<sup>e</sup> Patients with >10 adenomas or lifetime >10 cumulative adenomas may need to be considered for genetic testing based on absolute/cumulative adenoma number, patient age, and other factors such as family history of CRC (see text).

<sup>f</sup> See US Multi-Society Task Force recommendations for endoscopic removal of colorectal lesions.

Source:

Table 3. **American Diabetes Association (ADA) Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes—2023**

### Criteria for Testing for Diabetes or Prediabetes in Asymptomatic Adults

1. Testing should be considered in overweight or obese (BMI ≥25 kg/m² or ≥23 kg/m² in Asian Americans) adults who have one or more of the following risk factors:
   - First-degree relative with diabetes
   - Race/ethnicity with increased risk of developing diabetes (e.g., African American, Latino, Native American, Asian American, Pacific Islander)
   - History of cardiovascular disease
   - Hypertension (≥130/80 mmHg or on therapy for hypertension)
   - HDL cholesterol level <35 mg/dL (0.90 mmol/L) and/or a triglyceride level >250 mg/dL (2.82 mmol/L)
   - Women with polycystic ovary syndrome
   - Physical inactivity
   - Other clinical conditions associated with insulin resistance (e.g., severe obesity, acanthosis nigricans)

2. Patients with prediabetes (HbA1c ≥5.7% [39 mmol/mol], impaired glucose tolerance, or impaired fasting glucose) should be tested yearly.

3. Women who were diagnosed with gestational diabetes mellitus should have lifelong testing at least every 3 years.

4. For all other patients, testing should begin at 35 years of age.

5. If results are normal, testing should be repeated at a minimum of 3-year intervals, with consideration of more frequent testing depending on initial results and risk status.

6. People with HIV

Source:

### Table 4.

#### 2017 Hypertension Guidelines: Blood Pressure Targets and Treatment Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BP Category</th>
<th>Systolic</th>
<th>Diastolic</th>
<th>Treatment or Follow-Up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>&lt;120 mm/Hg</td>
<td>&lt;80 mm/Hg</td>
<td>Evaluate yearly; encourage healthy lifestyle changes to maintain normal BP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevated</td>
<td>120-129 mm/Hg</td>
<td>&lt;80 mm/Hg</td>
<td>Recommend healthy lifestyle changes and reassess in 3 to 6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension: Stage 1</td>
<td>130-139 mm/Hg</td>
<td>80-89 mm/Hg</td>
<td>Assess the 10-year risk for heart disease and stroke using the atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) risk calculator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- If risk is less than 10%, start with healthy lifestyle recommendations and reassess in 3 to 6 months
- If risk is greater than 10% or the patient has known clinical cardiovascular disease (CVD), diabetes mellitus, or chronic kidney disease, recommend lifestyle changes and BP-lowering medication (1 medication); reassess in 1 month for effectiveness
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BP Category</th>
<th>Systolic</th>
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<th>Diastolic</th>
<th>Treatment or Follow-Up</th>
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<td>of medication therapy</td>
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<td>• If goal is met after</td>
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<td>1 month, reassess in</td>
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<td>3 to 6 months</td>
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<td>medication or titration</td>
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<td>• Continue monthly</td>
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<td>follow-up until control</td>
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<td></td>
<td>is achieved</td>
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<tr>
<td>hypertensive: Stage</td>
<td>≥140 mm/Hg</td>
<td>or</td>
<td>≥90 mm/Hg</td>
<td>recommend healthy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>lifestyle changes and</td>
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<td>BP-lowering medication</td>
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<td>month, reassess in 3</td>
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<td>• If goal is not met</td>
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<td>continue monthly</td>
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<td></td>
<td>follow-up until control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BP Category</td>
<td>Systolic</td>
<td>Diastolic</td>
<td>Treatment or Follow-Up</td>
<td></td>
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<td>------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>consider different medications or titration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Continue monthly follow-up until control is achieved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source:
### Table 5. 2018 American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Guideline on the Management of Blood Cholesterol

#### Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease (ASCVD) Risk Enhancers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Family history of premature ASCVD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Persistent elevated LDL-C ≥160 mg/dL (≥4.1 mmol/L)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Chronic kidney disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Metabolic syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Conditions specific to women (e.g. preeclampsia, premature menopause)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Inflammatory Diseases (especially rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, HIV)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ethnicity (e.g. South Asian ancestry)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lipid/Biomarkers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Persistently elevated triglycerides (≥175 mg/dL, [≥2.0 mmol/L])</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lipid/Biomarkers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Elevated high-sensitivity C-reactive Protein (CRP) ≥2.0 mg/L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lipoprotein (a) levels ≥50 mg/dL (or ≥125 nmol/L)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• apoB ≥130 mg/dL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Current smoking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ankle-brachial index (ABI) &lt;0.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Abbreviations:** ASCVD = atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease; LDL-C = low density lipoprotein cholesterol; hs-CRP = high sensitivity C-reactive protein

**Source:**

Table 6. 2018 ACC Expert Consensus Decision Pathway on Tobacco Cessation Treatment.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug (doses)</th>
<th>How Sold (U.S.)</th>
<th>Dosing Instructions</th>
<th>Administration</th>
<th>Common Side Effects</th>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nicotine patch</td>
<td>OTC or Rx</td>
<td>Starting dose:</td>
<td>Apply a new patch each morning to dry skin.</td>
<td>Skin irritation</td>
<td>Trouble sleeping</td>
<td>The easiest nicotine product to use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 mg</td>
<td></td>
<td>21 mg for ≥10 cigarettes per day.</td>
<td>Rotate application site to avoid skin irritation.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Vivid dreams</td>
<td>Provides a steady nicotine level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 mg</td>
<td></td>
<td>14 mg for &lt;10 cigarettes per day.</td>
<td>May start patch before or on quit date.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Combination NRT therapy: as needed, can add gum, lozenge, inhaler, or nasal spray to patch to cover situational cravings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 mg</td>
<td></td>
<td>After 6 weeks, option to taper to lower doses for 2-6 weeks.</td>
<td>Keep using even if a slip occurs.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Use ≥3 months.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>After 6 weeks, continue original dose or taper to lower doses (either option acceptable).</td>
<td>If insomnia or disturbing dreams, remove patch at bedtime.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicotine lozenge</td>
<td>OTC or Rx</td>
<td>If first cigarette is ≤30 minutes of waking: 4 mg.</td>
<td>Place between gum and cheek, let it melt slowly. Use 1 piece every 1-2 hours (Max: 20/day).</td>
<td>Mouth irritation</td>
<td>Hiccups</td>
<td>May be added to patch to cover situational cravings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 mg</td>
<td></td>
<td>If first cigarette is &gt;30 minutes of waking: 2 mg.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Easier to use than gum for those with dental work or dentures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Use ≥3 months.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No food or drink 15 minutes prior to use and during use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicotine gum</td>
<td>OTC or Rx</td>
<td>If first cigarette is ≤30 minutes of waking: 4</td>
<td>Chew briefly until mouth tingles, then</td>
<td>Mouth irritation</td>
<td>Jaw soreness</td>
<td>User controls nicotine dose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 mg</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Not chewed in same way as regular gum;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: FDA-Approved Recommended Medications for Tobacco Cessation Treatment.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug (doses)</th>
<th>How Sold (U.S.)</th>
<th>Dosing Instructions</th>
<th>Administration Instructions</th>
<th>Common Side Effects</th>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 mg</td>
<td>mg.</td>
<td>mg.</td>
<td>'park' gum inside cheek until tingle fades. Repeat chew-and-park each time tingle fades. Discard gum after 30 minutes of use. Use ~ 1 piece per hour (Max: 24/day).</td>
<td>Heartburn</td>
<td>for cigarettes. May be added to patch to cover situational cravings.</td>
<td>Requires careful instruction. Can damage dental work and be difficult to use with dentures. No food or drink 15 minutes prior to use and during use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicotine inhaler</td>
<td>Rx only</td>
<td>10 mg/cartridge.</td>
<td>Puff into mouth/throat until cravings subside. Do not inhale into lungs. Change cartridge when nicotine taste disappears. Use 1 cartridge every 1-2 hours (Max: 16/day).</td>
<td>Mouth and throat irritation</td>
<td>Coughing if inhaled too deeply</td>
<td>User controls nicotine dose. Frequent puffing required. Mimics hand-to-mouth ritual of smoking cigarettes. May be added to patch to cover situational cravings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicotine nasal spray</td>
<td>Rx only</td>
<td>10 mg/mL.</td>
<td>Use 1 spray to each nostril. Use spray every 1-2 hours (Max: 80/day).</td>
<td>Nasal and throat irritation</td>
<td>User controls nicotine dose. Has the most side effects of all NRT products.</td>
<td>Most rapid delivery of nicotine among all NRT products. Some users cannot tolerate local irritation to nasal mucosa. May be added to patch to cover situational cravings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varenicline (tablet)</td>
<td>Rx only</td>
<td>Days 1-3: 0.5 mg/day. Days 4-7: 0.5 mg twice a day.</td>
<td>Start 1-4 weeks before quit date. Take with food and a tall glass</td>
<td>Nausea</td>
<td>Quit date can be flexible, from 1 week to 3 months after starting drug. Because of previous FDA warning (now removed), many patients fear</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Day 8+: 1 mg twice a day.</td>
<td>of water to minimize nausea.</td>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>Dual action: relieves nicotine withdrawal and blocks reward of smoking.</td>
<td>psychiatric adverse events, even though they are no more common than with other cessation medications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Use 3-6 months.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Oral agent (pill).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bupropion sustained release (SR) (tablet) 150 mg</td>
<td>Rx only</td>
<td>150 mg/day for 3 days, then 150 mg twice a day.</td>
<td>Start 1-2 weeks before quit date.</td>
<td>Insomnia, Agitation, Dry mouth, Headache</td>
<td>May lessen post-cessation weight gain while drug is being taken.</td>
<td>Increases seizure risk: not for use if seizure disorder or binge drinking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Use 3-6 months.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Oral agent (pill).</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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* All are FDA-approved as smoking cessation aids and listed as a first-line medication by U.S. Clinical Practice Guidelines (Fiore, 2008)

+ Recommended duration of use for medications is at least 3 months but extending dose to 6 months is frequently done to prevent relapse to tobacco use. Patching dosing differs slightly from FDA labeling.

Abbreviations: FDA = U.S. Food and Drug Administration; NRT = nicotine replacement therapy; OTC = over the counter (no prescription required); Rx = prescription required.

Source:
