

# 2014 Evidence-Based Guideline for the Management of High Blood Pressure in Adults

## Report From the Panel Members Appointed to the Eighth Joint National Committee (JNC 8)

The following recommendations are based on the systematic evidence review. Recommendations 1 through 5 address questions 1 and 2 concerning thresholds and goals for BP treatment. Recommendations 6, 7, and 8 address question 3 concerning selection of antihypertensive drugs. Recommendation 9 is a summary of strategies based on expert opinion for starting and adding antihypertensive drugs. The evidence statements supporting the recommendations are in the online Supplement.

### **Box.**

#### **Recommendations for Management of Hypertension**

##### **Recommendation 1**

In the general population aged  $\geq 60$  years, initiate pharmacologic treatment to lower blood pressure (BP) at systolic blood pressure (SBP)  $\geq 150$  mm Hg or diastolic blood pressure (DBP)  $\geq 90$  mm Hg and treat to a goal SBP  $< 150$  mm Hg and goal DBP  $< 90$  mm Hg. (Strong Recommendation – Grade A)

##### **Corollary Recommendation**

In the general population aged  $\geq 60$  years, if pharmacologic treatment for high BP results in lower achieved SBP (eg,  $< 140$  mm Hg) and treatment is well tolerated and without adverse effects on health or quality of life, treatment does not need to be adjusted. (Expert Opinion – Grade E)

##### **Recommendation 2**

In the general population  $< 60$  years, initiate pharmacologic treatment to lower BP at DBP  $\geq 90$  mm Hg and treat to a goal DBP  $< 90$  mm Hg. (For ages 30-59 years, Strong Recommendation – Grade A; For ages 18-29 years, Expert Opinion – Grade E)

##### **Recommendation 3**

In the general population  $< 60$  years, initiate pharmacologic treatment to lower BP at SBP  $\geq 140$  mm Hg and treat to a goal SBP  $< 140$  mm Hg. (Expert Opinion – Grade E)

##### **Recommendation 4**

In the population aged  $\geq 18$  years with chronic kidney disease (CKD), initiate pharmacologic treatment to lower BP at SBP  $\geq 140$  mm Hg or DBP  $\geq 90$  mm Hg and treat to goal SBP  $< 140$  mm Hg and goal DBP  $< 90$  mm Hg. (Expert Opinion – Grade E)

##### **Recommendation 5**

In the population aged  $\geq 18$  years with diabetes, initiate pharmacologic treatment to lower BP at SBP  $\geq 140$  mm Hg or DBP  $\geq 90$  mm Hg and treat to a goal SBP  $< 140$  mm Hg and goal DBP  $< 90$  mm Hg. (Expert Opinion – Grade E)

##### **Recommendation 6**

In the general nonblack population, including those with diabetes, initial antihypertensive treatment should include a thiazide-type diuretic, calcium channel blocker (CCB), angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor (ACEI), or angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB). (Moderate Recommendation – Grade B)

##### **Recommendation 7**

In the general black population, including those with diabetes, initial antihypertensive treatment should include a thiazide-type diuretic or CCB. (For general black population: Moderate Recommendation – Grade B; for black patients with diabetes: Weak Recommendation – Grade C)

**Recommendation 8**

In the population aged  $\geq 18$  years with CKD, initial (or add-on) antihypertensive treatment should include an ACEI or ARB to improve kidney outcomes. This applies to all CKD patients with hypertension regardless of race or diabetes status. (Moderate Recommendation – Grade B)

**Recommendation 9**

The main objective of hypertension treatment is to attain and maintain goal BP. If goal BP is not reached within a month of treatment, increase the dose of the initial drug or add a second drug from one of the classes in recommendation 6 (thiazide-type diuretic, CCB, ACEI, or ARB). The clinician should continue to assess BP and adjust the treatment regimen until goal BP is reached. If goal BP cannot be reached with 2 drugs, add and titrate a third drug from the list provided. Do not use an ACEI and an ARB together in the same patient. If goal BP cannot be reached using only the drugs in recommendation 6 because of a contraindication or the need to use more than 3 drugs to reach goal BP, antihypertensive drugs from other classes can be used. Referral to a hypertension specialist may be indicated for patients in whom goal BP cannot be attained using the above strategy or for the management of complicated patients for whom additional clinical consultation is needed. (Expert Opinion – Grade E)