

Do You Discuss Risks & Benefits of Aspirin Use With Your Patients?

The Consumer Assessment of Healthplan Survey (CAHPS) & National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Are Measuring the Rates

Both NCQA and the member survey CAHPS will begin measuring how often providers are discussing aspirin use with their patients. While aspirin use is not the clear choice for everyone, healthcare providers will begin to be measured on how often they discuss the benefits and risk within their practice.

Why the change?

The United States Preventive Services Task Force found that regular aspirin use can reduce the risk of first heart attacks for men and first strokes for women. Aspirin should only be used when the benefits outweigh the risks. The recommendation for daily use applies to:

- Men between the ages of 45 -79 and women between the ages of 55 -79
- For primary prevention in Type 1 or Type 2 diabetics at increased cardiovascular risks including those over 40 years of age
- For secondary prevention in diabetics with a history of cardiovascular disease

What are members being asked?

Health plans will be measured on how often clinicians discuss aspirin use with their patients as follows:

- Do you take aspirin daily or every other day?
- Do you have a health problem or take medication that makes taking aspirin unsafe for you?
- Has a doctor or other health provider ever discussed with you the risks and benefits of aspirin to prevent heart attack or stroke?

What OTC aspirin is covered?

- OTC aspirin 81 mg - enteric coated, chewable and regular