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ACC/AHA CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE

2019 ACC/AHA Guideline on the Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease

A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Clinical Practice Guidelines

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Endorsed by the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation, the American Geriatrics Society, the American Society of Preventive Cardiology, and the Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association

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TOP 10 TAKE-HOME MESSAGES FOR THE PRIMARY PREVENTION OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

1. The most important way to prevent atherosclerotic vascular disease, heart failure, and atrial fibrillation is to promote a healthy lifestyle throughout life.
2. A team-based care approach is an effective strategy for the prevention of cardiovascular disease. Clinicians should evaluate the social determinants of health that affect individuals to inform treatment decisions.
3. Adults who are 40 to 75 years of age and are being evaluated for cardiovascular disease prevention should undergo 10-year atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) risk estimation and have a clinician–patient risk discussion before starting on pharmacological therapy, such as antihypertensive therapy, a statin, or aspirin. In addition, assessing for other risk-enhancing factors can help guide decisions about preventive interventions in select individuals, as can coronary artery calcium scanning.
4. All adults should consume a healthy diet that emphasizes the intake of vegetables, fruits, nuts, whole grains, lean vegetable or animal protein, and fish and minimizes the intake of *trans* fats, red meat and processed red meats, refined carbohydrates, and sweetened beverages. For adults with overweight and obesity, counseling and caloric restriction are recommended for achieving and maintaining weight loss.
5. Adults should engage in at least 150 minutes per week of accumulated moderate-intensity physical activity or 75 minutes per week of vigorous-intensity physical activity.
6. For adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus, lifestyle changes, such as improving dietary habits and achieving exercise recommendations, are crucial. If medication is indicated, metformin is first-line therapy, followed by consideration of a sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 inhibitor or a glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist.
7. All adults should be assessed at every healthcare visit for tobacco use, and those who use tobacco should be assisted and strongly advised to quit.
8. Aspirin should be used infrequently in the routine primary prevention of ASCVD because of lack of net benefit.
9. Statin therapy is first-line treatment for primary prevention of ASCVD in patients with elevated low-density lipoprotein cholesterol levels (≥190 mg/dL), those with diabetes mellitus, who are 40 to 75 years of age, and those determined to be at sufficient ASCVD risk after a clinician–patient risk discussion.
10. Nonpharmacological interventions are recommended for all adults with elevated blood pressure or hypertension. For those requiring pharmacological therapy, the target blood pressure should generally be <130/80 mm Hg.

PREAMBLE

Since 1980, the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and American Heart Association (AHA) have translated scientific evidence into clinical practice guidelines with recommendations to improve cardiovascular health. These guidelines, which are based on systematic methods to evaluate and classify evidence, provide a foundation for the delivery of quality cardiovascular care. The ACC and AHA sponsor the development and publication of clinical practice guidelines without commercial support, and members volunteer their time to the writing and review efforts.

Clinical practice guidelines provide recommendations applicable to patients with or at risk of developing

cardiovascular disease (CVD). The focus is on medical practice in the United States, but these guidelines are relevant to patients throughout the world. Although guidelines may be used to inform regulatory or payer decisions, the goals are to improve quality of care and align with patients' interests. Guidelines are intended to define practices meeting the needs of patients in most but not all circumstances and should not replace clinical judgment.

Recommendations for guideline-directed management and therapy, which encompasses clinical evaluation, diagnostic testing, and both pharmacological and procedural treatments, are effective only when adopted by both practitioners and patients. Adherence to recommendations can be enhanced by shared decision-making between clinicians and patients, with patient engagement in selecting interventions on the basis of individual values, preferences, and associated conditions and comorbidities.

The ACC/AHA Task Force on Clinical Practice Guidelines strives to ensure that the guideline writing committee includes requisite expertise and is representative of the broader medical community by selecting experts from a broad array of backgrounds, representing different geographic regions, sexes, races, ethnicities, intellectual perspectives/biases, and scopes of clinical practice. The ACC and AHA have rigorous policies and methods to ensure that documents are developed without bias or improper influence. The complete policy on relationships with industry and other entities (RWI) can be found online.

Beginning in 2017, numerous modifications to the guidelines have been and continue to be implemented to make guidelines shorter and enhance "user friendliness." Guidelines are written and presented in a modular knowledge chunk format, in which each chunk includes a table of recommendations, a brief synopsis, recommendation-specific supportive text and, when appropriate, flow diagrams or additional tables. Hyperlinked references are provided for each modular knowledge chunk to facilitate quick access and review. More structured guidelines—including word limits ("targets") and a web guideline supplement for useful but noncritical tables and figures—are 2 such changes. This Preamble is an abbreviated version, with the detailed version available online.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Although there has been substantial improvement in atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) outcomes in recent decades, ASCVD remains the leading cause of morbidity and mortality globally.[S1-1–S1-3] In the United States, it is also the leading cause of death for people of most racial/ethnic groups, with an estimated cost of >$200 billion annually in healthcare services, medications, and lost productivity. Much of this is attributable to suboptimal implementation of prevention strategies and uncontrolled ASCVD risk factors in many adults.[S1-2]

Most Americans who have had a myocardial infarction (MI) had unfavorable levels of at least 1 cardiovascular risk factor before their ASCVD event.[S1-4] In 2010, the AHA defined a new model of "ideal cardiovascular health," referred to as Life's Simple 7.[S1-5] Clinicians will find the 2018 Journal of American College of Cardiology (JACC) Cardiovascular Health Promotion Series very helpful in approaching the various aspects of prevention with patients.[S1-6] An increasing number of ideal cardiovascular health factors have been associated with a lower prevalence and incidence of ASCVD events, heart failure, atrial fibrillation, cancer, depression, and cognitive impairment.[S1-7] Therefore, moving individuals toward ideal cardiovascular health is critically important for prevention of many important health conditions.

The ACC/AHA Task Force on Clinical Practice Guidelines has commissioned this guideline to consolidate existing recommendations and various recent scientific statements, expert consensus documents, and clinical practice guidelines into a single guidance document focused on the primary prevention of ASCVD. However, this guideline also includes newly generated recommendations for aspirin use, exercise and physical activity, and tobacco use, in addition to recommendations related to team-based care, shared decision-making, and assessment of social determinants of health, to create a comprehensive yet targeted ACC/AHA guideline on the prevention of ASCVD. This guideline has been formatted in the modular chunk format to facilitate readability and future updating.

Prevention strategies occur at the population level but must also engage individual adults to slow the development of ASCVD. The most important way to prevent ASCVD is to promote a healthy lifestyle throughout life. Prevention strategies must include a strong focus on lifestyle optimization (improvements in diet, physical activity, and avoidance of tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke) to minimize the risk of future ASCVD events.

A comprehensive patient-centered approach that addresses all aspects of a patient's lifestyle habits and estimated risk of a future ASCVD event is the first step in deciding on where there may be a need for pharmacotherapy. Even if a blood pressure (BP)–reducing medication, lipid-lowering medication, or diabetes medication is ultimately prescribed, lifestyle goals should be emphasized on a regular basis. Only when a person's risk is sufficiently high should medications to reduce ASCVD risk be considered as part of a shared

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decision-making process for optimal treatment. In summary, clinicians and individuals should focus attention on living a healthy lifestyle by referring to these evidence-based recommendations to help prevent ASCVD.

1.1. Methodology and Evidence Review

This guideline continues the ACC and AHA effort to design a comprehensive yet succinct compilation of practical guidance for the primary prevention of ASCVD and to promote optimal dissemination of information by using concise language and formatting. The recommendations listed in this guideline are evidence based and supported by an extensive evidence review. A search for literature derived from research involving human subjects, published in English, and indexed in Ovid MEDLINE, PubMed, Cochrane Library, National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), and other selected databases relevant to this guideline, was conducted between May and July 2018. For specific search terms used and years searched per section, please see Appendix 1.

Randomized controlled trials (RCTs), systematic reviews of RCTs, meta-analyses, and large, United States–based, high-quality cohort studies, as well as observational studies and systematic reviews of observational studies, were evaluated for their content on the prevention of ASCVD outcomes related to the following 9 topic areas: risk assessment, diet, exercise/physical activity, obesity and weight loss, type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM), blood cholesterol, hypertension, smoking cessation, and aspirin use. Previous ACC/AHA guidelines, as well as US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) reviews and other guidance relevant to this guideline, were also assessed. The final evidence tables included in the Online Data Supplement summarize the evidence used to formulate recommendations. References selected and published in this document are representative and not all-inclusive.

Avalere Health, a healthcare advisory services firm contracted by ACC/AHA, served as the document manager for this guideline to facilitate its development process. As document manager, Avalere facilitated the deliberations of the Writing Committee and led the modified Delphi process for establishing the Class of Recommendation and the Level of Evidence. In parallel, an independent health data and epidemiology expert, Lee Ann Prebil, conducted a systematic evidence review for the key topic of exercise and physical activity and conducted targeted literature searches to support this document's discussion of patient-centered approaches, including team-based care, shared decision-making, and assessment of social determinants of health. A targeted literature search was also conducted for this guideline's cost and value considerations. These searches are available as downloadable Excel files.

Recommendations and supportive text relevant to cardiovascular risk, blood cholesterol, and high BP were taken directly from 2 recently released ACC/AHA guidelines, the 2017 Hypertension Clinical Practice Guidelines[S1.1-1] and the 2018 Cholesterol Clinical Practice Guideline,[S1.1-2] and were adapted for the present guideline, which aims to provide an overview of the primary prevention of ASCVD among adults. Recommendations that were adapted from previous publications are noted in the recommendation tables, and both the original published recommendation and the adapted version are provided in the guideline.

The results of these evidence reviews were evaluated by the writing committee for incorporation into the present guideline. (See Table S1 in the Web Supplement for a list of relevant publications and statements used in support of the guideline's recommendations.) Each topic area was assigned a primary writer, as well as a primary, and sometimes secondary, reviewer. These assignments were based on areas of particular expertise of writing committee members. All recommendations were fully reviewed and discussed among the full committee to allow for diverse perspectives and considerations for this guideline. Recommendations were then voted upon, with a modified Delphi process used to reach consensus.

1.2. Organization of the Writing Committee

The writing committee consisted of clinicians, cardiologists, health services researchers, epidemiologists, internists, nurses, and a lay representative. The writing committee included representatives from the ACC and AHA. Appendix 2 of the present document lists writing committee members' relevant RWI. For the purposes of full transparency, the writing committee members' comprehensive disclosure information is available online.

1.3. Document Review and Approval

This document was reviewed by 5 official reviewers nominated by the ACC and AHA (1 reviewer from the ACC/AHA Task Force for Practice Guidelines, 2 reviewers from the AHA, and 2 reviewers from the ACC); 3 reviewers on behalf of the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation, the American Society for Nutrition, and the American Society of Preventive Medicine; and 23 individual content reviewers. Reviewers' RWI information was distributed to the writing committee and is published in this document (Appendix 3). This document was approved for publication by the governing bodies of the ACC and AHA.

1.4. Scope of the Guideline

This guideline is intended to be a resource for the clinical and public health practice communities. It addresses the primary prevention of CVD in adults (≥18 years of age), focused on outcomes of ASCVD (ie, acute coronary

Table 1. Applying Class of Recommendation and Level of Evidence to Clinical Strategies, Interventions, Treatments, or Diagnostic Testing in Patient Care (Updated August 2015)

CLASS (STRENGTH) OF RECOMMENDATION	LEVEL (QUALITY) OF EVIDENCE‡
CLASS I (STRONG) — Benefit >>> Risk Suggested phrases for writing recommendations: ▪ Is recommended ▪ Is indicated/useful/effective/beneficial ▪ Should be performed/administered/other ▪ Comparative-Effectiveness Phrases†: ○ Treatment/strategy A is recommended/indicated in preference to treatment B ○ Treatment A should be chosen over treatment B	**LEVEL A** ▪ High-quality evidence‡ from more than 1 RCT ▪ Meta-analyses of high-quality RCTs ▪ One or more RCTs corroborated by high-quality registry studies
CLASS IIa (MODERATE) — Benefit >> Risk Suggested phrases for writing recommendations: ▪ Is reasonable ▪ Can be useful/effective/beneficial ▪ Comparative-Effectiveness Phrases†: ○ Treatment/strategy A is probably recommended/indicated in preference to treatment B ○ It is reasonable to choose treatment A over treatment B	**LEVEL B-R (Randomized)** ▪ Moderate-quality evidence‡ from 1 or more RCTs ▪ Meta-analyses of moderate-quality RCTs
CLASS IIb (WEAK) — Benefit ≥ Risk Suggested phrases for writing recommendations: ▪ May/might be reasonable ▪ May/might be considered ▪ Usefulness/effectiveness is unknown/unclear/uncertain or not well established	**LEVEL B-NR (Nonrandomized)** ▪ Moderate-quality evidence‡ from 1 or more well-designed, well-executed nonrandomized studies, observational studies, or registry studies ▪ Meta-analyses of such studies
CLASS III: No Benefit (MODERATE) — Benefit = Risk *(Generally, LOE A or B use only)* Suggested phrases for writing recommendations: ▪ Is not recommended ▪ Is not indicated/useful/effective/beneficial ▪ Should not be performed/administered/other	**LEVEL C-LD (Limited Data)** ▪ Randomized or nonrandomized observational or registry studies with limitations of design or execution ▪ Meta-analyses of such studies ▪ Physiological or mechanistic studies in human subjects
CLASS III: Harm (STRONG) — Risk > Benefit Suggested phrases for writing recommendations: ▪ Potentially harmful ▪ Causes harm ▪ Associated with excess morbidity/mortality ▪ Should not be performed/administered/other	**LEVEL C-EO (Expert Opinion)** Consensus of expert opinion based on clinical experience

COR and LOE are determined independently (any COR may be paired with any LOE).

A recommendation with LOE C does not imply that the recommendation is weak. Many important clinical questions addressed in guidelines do not lend themselves to clinical trials. Although RCTs are unavailable, there may be a very clear clinical consensus that a particular test or therapy is useful or effective.

* The outcome or result of the intervention should be specified (an improved clinical outcome or increased diagnostic accuracy or incremental prognostic information).

† For comparative-effectiveness recommendations (COR I and IIa; LOE A and B only), studies that support the use of comparator verbs should involve direct comparisons of the treatments or strategies being evaluated.

‡ The method of assessing quality is evolving, including the application of standardized, widely used, and preferably validated evidence grading tools; and for systematic reviews, the incorporation of an Evidence Review Committee.

COR indicates Class of Recommendation; EO, expert opinion; LD, limited data; LOE, Level of Evidence; NR, nonrandomized; R, randomized; and RCT, randomized controlled trial.

syndromes, MI, stable or unstable angina, arterial revascularization, stroke, transient ischemic attack, or peripheral arterial disease of atherosclerotic origin), as well as heart failure and atrial fibrillation. The guideline presents recommendations to prevent CVD that are related to lifestyle factors (eg, diet and exercise or physical activity), other factors affecting CVD risk (eg, obesity, diabetes, blood cholesterol, high BP, smoking, aspirin use), patient-centered approaches (eg, team-based care, shared decision-making, assessment of social determinants of health), and considerations of the cost and value of primary prevention.

1.5. Class of Recommendation and Level of Evidence

Recommendations are designated with both a Class of Recommendation (COR) and a Level of Evidence (LOE). The COR indicates the strength of recommendation, encompassing the estimated magnitude and certainty of benefit in proportion to risk. The LOE rates the quality of scientific evidence supporting the intervention on the basis of the type, quantity, and consistency of data from clinical trials and other sources (Table 1).[S1.5-1]

1.6. Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning/Phrase
ASCVD	atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease
AU	Agatston units
BMI	body mass index
BP	blood pressure
CHD	coronary heart disease
CKD	chronic kidney disease
CVD	cardiovascular disease
DASH	Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension
DBP	diastolic blood pressure
DM	diabetes mellitus
ENDS	electronic nicotine delivery systems
FDA	US Food and Drug Administration
GLP-1R	glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor
HbA1c	hemoglobin A1c
HDL-C	high-density lipoprotein cholesterol
HbA1c	hemoglobin A1c
LDL-C	low-density lipoprotein cholesterol
MI	myocardial infarction
PCE	pooled cohort equations
RCT	randomized controlled trial
SBP	systolic blood pressure
SGLT-2	sodium-glucose cotransporter 2
T2DM	type 2 diabetes mellitus
USPSTF	US Preventive Services Task Force

2. OVERARCHING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ASCVD PREVENTION EFFORTS

2.1. Patient-Centered Approaches to Comprehensive ASCVD Prevention

Recommendations for Patient-Centered Approaches to Comprehensive ASCVD Prevention

Referenced studies that support recommendations are summarized in Online Data Supplements 1 and 2.

COR	LOE	Recommendations
I	A	1. A team-based care approach is recommended for the control of risk factors associated with ASCVD.[S2.1-1–S2.1-14]
I	B-R	2. Shared decision-making should guide discussions about the best strategies to reduce ASCVD risk.[S2.1-15–S2.1-18]
I	B-NR	3. Social determinants of health should inform optimal implementation of treatment recommendations for the prevention of ASCVD.[S2.1-19–S2.1-25]

Synopsis

This 2019 ACC/AHA Guideline on the Primary Prevention of CVD aims to promote the delivery of patient-centered care, which the writing committee felt was foundational to the guidance provided throughout. These patient-centered recommendations emphasize the importance of team-based care delivery, shared decision-making, and the evaluation of social determinants of health in ASCVD prevention efforts. These recommendations apply to all aspects of clinical practice for the primary prevention of ASCVD.

Recommendation-Specific Supportive Text

1. Team-based care makes use of multidisciplinary health professionals to improve the quality and maintenance of ASCVD prevention. It is a multifaceted approach that supports clinical decision-making (ie, treatment algorithms), collaboration among different clinicians, and patient and family member participation to facilitate the treatment goals of patients.[S2.1-26] RCTs and systematic reviews with meta-analyses demonstrated greater reduction of ASCVD risk with team-based care than with usual care in patients with hypertension, diabetes, and hyperlipidemia.[S2.1-1–S2.1-14] A team-based approach to ASCVD prevention may result in significant improvements in patient outcomes[S2.1-27] and often meets patient needs better than standard care, especially in low-resource settings and among vulnerable populations. In a team-based care model that compared patients enrolled in a preventive cardiology clinic staffed by advanced practice providers with a propensity-matched cohort of patients enrolled in primary care clinics, a reduction in cardiovascular risk was demonstrated through effective risk stratification and preventive management.[S2.1-28] Other successful interventions that have used team-based care include telehealth monitoring, follow-up support aids, and patient education.[S2.1-27]
2. Decisions about primary prevention should be collaborative between a clinician and a patient. Shared decision-making occurs when practitioners engage patients in discussions about personalized ASCVD risk estimates and their implications for the perceived benefits of preventive strategies, including lifestyle habits, goals, and medical therapies. Collaborative decisions are more likely to address potential barriers to treatment options, compared with treatment and guidance offered without patient input.[S2.1-15–S2.1-18]
3. Socioeconomic inequalities are strong determinants of CVD risk internationally.[S2.1-21,S2.1-24] Therefore, the clinician should tailor advice to a patient's socioeconomic and educational status, as well as cultural, work, and home environments.[S2.1-23] The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has developed a

Table 2. Example Considerations for Addressing Social Determinants of Health to Help Prevent ASCVD Events

Topic/Domain	Example Considerations
Cardiovascular risk	Adults should be routinely assessed for psychosocial stressors and provided with appropriate counseling.[S2.1-31]
	Health literacy should be assessed every 4 to 6 y to maximize recommendation effectiveness.[S2.1-36]
Diet	In addition to the prescription of diet modifications, body size perception, as well as social and cultural influences, should be assessed.[S2.1-37,S2.1-38]
	Potential barriers to adhering to a heart-healthy diet should be assessed, including food access and economic factors; these factors may be particularly relevant to persons from vulnerable populations, such as individuals residing in either inner-city or rural environments, those at socioeconomic disadvantage, and those of advanced age*.[S2.1-39]
Exercise and physical activity	In addition to the prescription of exercise, neighborhood environment and access to facilities for physical activity should be assessed.[S2.1- 30,S2.1-40,S2.1-41]
Obesity and weight loss	Lifestyle counseling for weight loss should include assessment of and interventional recommendations for psychosocial stressors, sleep hygiene, and other individualized barriers.[S2.1-42–S2.1-44]
	Weight maintenance should be promoted in patients with overweight/obesity who are unable to achieve recommended weight loss.
Diabetes mellitus	In addition to the prescription of type 2 diabetes mellitus interventions, environmental and psychosocial factors, including depression, stress, self-efficacy, and social support, should be assessed to improve achievement of glycemic control and adherence to treatment.[S2.1-45–S2.1-48]
High blood pressure	Short sleep duration (<6 h) and poor-quality sleep are associated with high blood pressure and should be considered.[S2.1-49] Because other lifestyle habits can impact blood pressure, access to a healthy, low-sodium diet and viable exercise options should also be considered.
Tobacco treatment	Social support is another potential determinant of tobacco use. Therefore, in adults who use tobacco, assistance and arrangement for individualized and group social support counseling are recommended.[S2.1-50,S2.1-51]

*Advanced age generally refers to age ≥75 years.
ASCVD indicates atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease.

screening tool to assess 5 domains of non–health-related measures that affect health outcomes: housing instability, food insecurity, transportation difficulties, utility assistance needs, and interpersonal safety.[S2.1-29] ASCVD prevention could benefit from such screening. ASCVD risk begins early in life, with heightened susceptibility tied to low socioeconomic status.[S2.1-25] Examples of upstream social determinants of health that affect treatment adherence and ASCVD health outcomes include comorbid mental illness, lack of health literacy, exposure to adversity (eg, home/community violence, trauma exposures, safety concerns), financial strain, inadequate housing conditions, lack of food security (ie, access to affordable and nutritious food), and inadequate social support.[S2.1-30] Systems of care should evaluate social determinants of health that affect care delivery for the primary prevention of ASCVD (eg, transportation barriers, the availability of health services).

Important considerations related to socioeconomic disadvantage are not captured by existing CVD risk equations.[S2.1-31] Addressing unmet social needs improves management of BP and lipids,[S2.1-32] which highlights the importance of dietary counseling and encouraging physical activity.[S2.1-19] More time may be required to address ASCVD prevention with adults of low health literacy or disadvantaged educational backgrounds.

Differential cardiovascular outcomes persist by important sociodemographic characteristics that include but are not limited to age, sex, and race/ethnicity.[S2.1-22,S2.1-33–S2.1-35] Failure to address the impact of social determinants of health impedes efficacy of proven prevention recommendations. Table 2 outlines key considerations related to social determinants of health and ASCVD prevention.

2.2. Assessment of Cardiovascular Risk

Recommendations for Assessment of Cardiovascular Risk
Referenced studies that support recommendations are summarized in Online Data Supplement 3.

COR	LOE	Recommendations
I	B-NR	1. For adults 40 to 75 years of age, clinicians should routinely assess traditional cardiovascular risk factors and calculate 10-year risk of ASCVD by using the pooled cohort equations (PCE).[S2.2-1,S2.2-2]
IIa	B-NR	2. For adults 20 to 39 years of age, it is reasonable to assess traditional ASCVD risk factors at least every 4 to 6 years.[S2.2-1–S2.2-3]
IIa	B-NR	3. In adults at borderline risk (5% to <7.5% 10-year ASCVD risk) or intermediate risk (≥7.5% to <20% 10-year ASCVD risk), it is reasonable to use additional risk-enhancing factors to guide decisions about preventive interventions (eg, statin therapy).[S2.2-4–S2.2-14]
IIa	B-NR	4. In adults at intermediate risk (≥7.5% to <20% 10-year ASCVD risk) or selected adults at borderline risk (5% to <7.5% 10-year ASCVD risk), if risk-based decisions for preventive interventions (eg, statin therapy) remain uncertain, it is reasonable to measure a coronary artery calcium score to guide clinician–patient risk discussion.[S2.2-15–S2.2-31]

Recommendations for Assessment of Cardiovascular Risk (Continued)		
COR	LOE	Recommendations
IIb	B-NR	5. For adults 20 to 39 years of age and for those 40 to 59 years of age who have <7.5% 10-year ASCVD risk, estimating lifetime or 30-year ASCVD risk may be considered.[S2.2-1,S2.2-2,S2.2-32–S2.2-35]

Synopsis

Assessment of ASCVD risk remains the foundation of primary prevention. Although all individuals should be encouraged to follow a heart-healthy lifestyle, estimating an individual's 10-year absolute ASCVD risk enables matching the intensity of preventive interventions to the patient's absolute risk, to maximize anticipated benefit and minimize potential harm from overtreatment. The 10-year ASCVD risk estimate is used to guide decision-making for many preventive interventions, including lipid management[S2.2-4,S2.2-36] and BP management;[S2.2-37] it should be the start of a conversation with the patient about risk-reducing strategies (the "clinician–patient discussion") and not the sole decision factor for the initiation of pharmacotherapy.[S2.2-4,S2.2-36,S2.2-38] All risk estimation tools have inherent limitations, and population-based risk scores must be interpreted in light of specific circumstances for individual patients. The PCE have been shown to overestimate[S2.2-15,S2.2-39–S2.2-47] or underestimate[S2.2-12,S2.2-48–S2.2-51] ASCVD risk for certain subgroups. Thus, after calculation of the PCE, it is reasonable to use additional risk-enhancing factors to guide decisions about preventive interventions for borderline- or intermediate-risk adults.[S2.2-4–S2.2-14] However, the value of preventive therapy may remain uncertain for many individuals with borderline or intermediate estimated 10-year risk, and some patients may be reluctant to take medical therapy without clearer evidence of increased ASCVD risk. For these individuals, the assessment of coronary artery calcium is a reasonable tool to reclassify risk either upward or downward, as part of shared decision-making. For younger adults 20 to 59 years of age, estimation of lifetime risk may be considered. For adults >75 years of age, the clinician and patient should engage in a discussion about the possible benefits of preventive therapies appropriate to the age group in the context of comorbidities and life expectancy.

Recommendation-Specific Supportive Text

1. To facilitate decisions about preventive interventions, it is recommended to screen for traditional ASCVD risk factors and apply the race- and sex-specific PCE (ASCVD Risk Estimator) to estimate 10-year ASCVD risk for asymptomatic adults 40 to 75 years of age.[S2.2.1,S2.2.2] For management of stage 1 hypertension (BP 130–139 / 80–89 mm Hg), adults should be categorized as <10% or >10% 10-year ASCVD risk for therapeutic decisions (see Section 4.4 Figure 4). For management of blood cholesterol, adults should be categorized as having low (<5%), borderline (5% to <7.5%), intermediate (≥7.5% to <20%), or high (≥20%) 10-year risk.[S2.2-4] The PCE are best validated among non-Hispanic whites and non-Hispanic blacks living in the United States.[S2.2-1,S2.2-39,S2.2-48,S2.2-49,S2.2-52] In other racial/ethnic groups[S2.2-53,S2.2-54] or in some non-US populations,[S2.2-40,S2.2-41,S2.2-53,S2.2-54] the PCE may overestimate or underestimate risk. Therefore, clinicians may consider the use of another risk prediction tool as an alternative to the PCE if the tool was validated in a population with characteristics similar to those of the evaluated patient. Examples include the general Framingham CVD risk score,[S2.2-55] the Reynolds risk scores,[S2.2-56,S2.2-57] SCORE (Systematic COronary Risk Evaluation),[S2.2-58] and the QRISK/JBS3[S2.2-59] tools. Other professional societies have incorporated some of these alternative validated risk scores into their lipid management guidelines or have considered different risk thresholds for preventive interventions.[S2.2-58–S2.2-63] Although slight differences exist across organizational guidelines, they are all very similar in their overarching goal of matching the intensity of preventive therapies to the absolute (generally 10-year) risk of the patient.[S2.2-58–S2.2-63]
2. After age 20 years, it is reasonable to measure traditional risk factors at least every 4 to 6 years.[S2.2-1,S2.2-3] For adults 20 to 39 years of age, limited data exist on the performance and utility of 10-year risk estimation tools.[S2.2-64] Because age is a major driver of risk, most in this age range (<40 years) are unlikely to have a sufficiently elevated 10-year risk to warrant pharmacological therapy with a statin (with some exceptions, such as in familial hypercholesterolemia). Nevertheless, periodic assessment of risk factors (eg, at least every 4 to 6 years in younger adults 20 to 39 years of age) is important to guide discussions about intensity of lifestyle interventions, frequency of risk factor monitoring, treatment of nonlipid risk factors, and consideration of 30-year or lifetime risk estimation.[S2.2-1–S2.2-3]
3. No single risk calculator is appropriate for all patients. In certain populations, the PCE have reasonable calibration.[S2.2-1,S2.2-65–S2.2-67] However, some studies have found *underestimation* of risk (and potential for undertreatment) among individuals with chronic inflammatory conditions (eg, autoimmune disease,[S2.2-50] HIV infection[S2.2-12]) or socioeconomic disadvantage[S2.2-48,S2.2-49,S2.2-51] not

Table 3. Risk-Enhancing Factors for Clinician–Patient Risk Discussion

Risk-Enhancing Factors
Family history of premature ASCVD (males, age <55 y; females, age <65 y)
Primary hypercholesterolemia (LDL-C, 160–189 mg/dL [4.1–4.8 mmol/L]; non–HDL-C 190–219 mg/dL [4.9–5.6 mmol/L])*
Metabolic syndrome (increased waist circumference [by ethnically appropriate cutpoints], elevated triglycerides [>150 mg/dL, nonfasting], elevated blood pressure, elevated glucose, and low HDL-C [<40 mg/dL in men; <50 mg/dL in women] are factors; a tally of 3 makes the diagnosis)
Chronic kidney disease (eGFR 15–59 mL/min/1.73 m^2 with or without albuminuria; not treated with dialysis or kidney transplantation)
Chronic inflammatory conditions, such as psoriasis, RA, lupus, or HIV/AIDS
History of premature menopause (before age 40 y) and history of pregnancy-associated conditions that increase later ASCVD risk, such as preeclampsia
High-risk race/ethnicity (eg, South Asian ancestry)
Lipids/biomarkers: associated with increased ASCVD risk
Persistently elevated* primary hypertriglyceridemia (≥175 mg/dL, nonfasting)
If measured:
Elevated high-sensitivity C-reactive protein (≥2.0 mg/L)
Elevated Lp(a): A relative indication for its measurement is family history of premature ASCVD. An Lp(a) ≥50 mg/dL or ≥125 nmol/L constitutes a risk-enhancing factor, especially at higher levels of Lp(a).
Elevated apoB (≥130 mg/dL): A relative indication for its measurement would be triglyceride ≥200 mg/dL. A level ≥130 mg/dL corresponds to an LDL-C >160 mg/dL and constitutes a risk-enhancing factor
ABI (<0.9)

*Optimally, 3 determinations.

ABI indicates ankle-brachial index; AIDS, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; apoB, apolipoprotein B; ASCVD, atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HIV, human immunodeficiency virus; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; Lp(a), lipoprotein (a); and RA, rheumatoid arthritis.

captured in current risk scoring models. Patients with familial hypercholesterolemia are at significant risk of having an early ASCVD event, and the use of risk calculators is not applicable to these patients. In contrast, other studies have found *overestimation* of risk with the PCE, particularly among those with higher socioeconomic position and those with continual access to care and preventive services, which could lead to overtreatment of individuals less likely to receive net benefit from preventive pharmacotherapies over the next decade.[S2.2-15,S2.2-39–S2.2-47] The PCE may be suboptimally calibrated in more modern populations as compared with the older cohorts from which they were derived.[S2.2-68] Therefore, among adults at borderline (5% to <7.5%) and intermediate (≥7.5% to <20%) risk, one may consider additional individual risk-enhancing clinical factors (Table 3) that can be used to revise the 10-year ASCVD risk estimate.[S2.2-4] These factors may include having a family history of premature ASCVD,[S2.2-5] chronic inflammatory disease [rheumatoid arthritis,[S2.2-6] lupus,[S2.2-7] or HIV infection[S2.2-12]], South Asian ancestry,[S2.2-13] a history of preeclampsia[S2.2-8] or preterm delivery,[S2.2-9] early menopause,[S2.2-10] erectile dysfunction,[S2.2-11] chronic kidney disease (CKD), metabolic syndrome, persistently elevated inflammatory markers,[S2.2-14] or elevated lipid biomarkers.[S2.2-4] After these clinically available risk-enhancing factors have been considered, if there is still uncertainty about the reliability of the risk estimate for individuals in the borderline- or intermediate-risk categories, further testing to document subclinical coronary atherosclerosis is reasonable to more accurately reclassify the risk estimate upward or downward.[S2.2-17–S2.2-19,S2.2-69]

4. For individuals with intermediate predicted risk (≥7.5% to <20%) by the PCE or for select adults with borderline (5% to <7.5%) predicted risk, coronary artery calcium measurement can be a useful tool in refining risk assessment for preventive interventions (eg, statin therapy).[S2.2-4] In these groups, coronary artery calcium measurement can reclassify risk upward (particularly if coronary artery calcium score is ≥100 Agatston units (AU) or ≥75th age/sex/race percentile) or downward (if coronary artery calcium is zero) in a significant proportion of individuals.[S2.2-15] The extent of reclassification is sufficient to provide confidence that borderline- or intermediate-risk patients with elevated coronary artery calcium will have event rates that clearly exceed benefit thresholds (ie, ≥7.5% in 10 years) and those with coronary artery calcium scores of zero will have event rates <7.5%, which can help guide shared decision-making about statins[S2.2-15,S2.2-16,S2.2-21] or potentially even aspirin.[S2.2-70] In observational data, the presence and severity of coronary artery calcium have

been shown to be associated with the likelihood of benefit from statin therapy for ASCVD risk reduction.[S2.2-71] Coronary artery calcium scoring has superior discrimination and risk reclassification as compared with other subclinical imaging markers or biomarkers.[S2.2-22,S2.2-27] In the MESA (Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis) trial, the coronary artery calcium score was strongly associated with 10-year ASCVD risk in a graded manner across age, sex, and racial/ethnic groups, independent of traditional risk factors.[S2.2-17] Coronary artery calcium may even refine ASCVD risk estimates among lower-risk women (<7.5% 10-year risk),[S2.2-7] younger adults (<45 years of age),[S2.2-20] and older adults (≥75 years of age),[S2.2-26] but more data are needed to support its use in these subgroups. A coronary artery calcium score of zero identifies individuals at lower risk of ASCVD events and death over a ≥10-year period,[S2.2-15,S2.2-17,S2.2-25] who appear to derive little or no benefit from statins for ASCVD risk reduction.[S2.2-71] Thus, the absence of coronary artery calcium could reclassify a patient downward into a lower risk group in which preventive interventions (eg, statins) could be postponed.[S2.2-22] Note that the absence of coronary artery calcium does not rule out noncalcified plaque, and clinical judgment about risk should prevail. Coronary artery calcium might also be considered in refining risk for selected low-risk adults (<5% 10-year risk), such as those with a strong family history of premature coronary heart disease (CHD).[S2.2-23] MESA[S2.2-28] and Astro-CHARM (Astronaut Cardiovascular Health and Risk Modification)[S2.2-29] are risk estimation tools that incorporate both risk factors and coronary artery calcium for estimating 10-year CHD and ASCVD risk, respectively. Coronary artery calcium measurement is not intended as a "screening" test for all but rather may be used as a decision aid in select adults to facilitate the clinician–patient risk discussion.

5. For adults 20 to 39 years of age (who are not included in the PCE) and those 40 to 59 years of age who are not already at elevated (≥7.5%) 10-year risk, estimating a lifetime or 30-year risk of ASCVD may be considered (ASCVD Risk Estimator).[S2.2-2] Younger individuals often have low estimated 10-year risk, but the presence of at least 1 major risk factor by middle age is associated with increased lifetime ASCVD risk and reduced survival free of morbidity compared with those with optimal risk factors.[S2.2-32–S2.2-34] Calculation of lifetime risk with the ACC/AHA 30-year/lifetime risk estimator for those 20 to 59 years of age (not at high short-term risk) may be reasonable to consider as a communication strategy for reinforcing adherence to lifestyle recommendations.[S2.2-2]

3. LIFESTYLE FACTORS AFFECTING CARDIOVASCULAR RISK

3.1. Nutrition and Diet

Recommendations for Nutrition and Diet
Referenced studies that support recommendations are summarized in Online Data Supplements 4 and 5.

COR	LOE	Recommendations
I	B-R	1. A diet emphasizing intake of vegetables, fruits, legumes, nuts, whole grains, and fish is recommended to decrease ASCVD risk factors.[S3.1-1–S3.1-11]
IIa	B-NR	2. Replacement of saturated fat with dietary monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats can be beneficial to reduce ASCVD risk.[S3.1-12,S3.1-13]
IIa	B-NR	3. A diet containing reduced amounts of cholesterol and sodium can be beneficial to decrease ASCVD risk.[S3.1-9,S3.1-14–S3.1-16]
IIa	B-NR	4. As a part of a healthy diet, it is reasonable to minimize the intake of processed meats, refined carbohydrates, and sweetened beverages to reduce ASCVD risk.[S3.1-17–S3.1-24]
III: Harm	B-NR	5. As a part of a healthy diet, the intake of *trans* fats should be avoided to reduce ASCVD risk.[S3.1-12,S3.1-17,S3.1-25–S3.1-27]

Synopsis

Approximately 630 000 Americans died from heart disease in 2015, of whom 366 000 died from coronary artery disease. After 4 decades of decline, heart disease deaths rose in 2015 by 1%.[S3.1-28] This trend has been attributed to the obesity epidemic. Healthy nutrition has an important impact on ASCVD and its risk factors (see recommendations in the individual sections), potentially reversing or reducing obesity, high cholesterol, diabetes, and hypertension. The cardiovascular nutrition literature is limited by the paucity of large-scale prospective randomized trials with ASCVD outcomes. Although RCTs focused on hard endpoints are limited, multiple observational studies have focused on the association of CVD mortality with dietary patterns—specifically, sugar, low-calorie sweeteners, high-carbohydrate diets, low-carbohydrate diets, refined grains, *trans* fat, saturated fat, sodium, red meat, and processed red meat (eg, bacon, salami, ham, hot dogs, sausage).[S3.1-1–S3.1-24] Processed meats are any meat preserved by smoking, curing, or salting, or additional chemical preservatives.[S3.1-28a]

Recommendation-Specific Supportive Text

1. Plant-based and Mediterranean diets, along with increased fruit, nut, vegetable, legume, and lean vegetable or animal protein (preferably fish) consumption, with the inherent soluble and insoluble

vegetable fiber, have consistently been associated with lower risk of all-cause mortality than control or standard diets[S3.1-1–S3.1-10,S3.1-29,S3.1-30] in observational studies. The PREDIMED (Prevención con Dieta Mediterránea) trial randomized participants to a Mediterranean diet supplemented with either extra-virgin olive oil or nuts and demonstrated 30% and 28% reductions, respectively, in the combined endpoint (MI, stroke, or cardiovascular mortality), but the improved outcome was driven largely by the reduction in stroke, with no significant improvement over the control diet for mortality or MI.[S3.1-1] When the PREDIMED cohort was reanalyzed post hoc for the "provegetarian" food pattern (more vegetable consumption versus animal, egg, fish, dairy, or meat product consumption), a significant mortality rate reduction (41%) was noted in the 2 quintiles with the highest vegetarian score.[S3.1-11] A comparison of plant and animal protein from the Adventist Health Study-2 cohort[S3.1-10] similarly indicated that using meat for protein was associated with a 61% increase in mortality rate, whereas replacing meat with nuts and seeds was associated with a 40% reduction in mortality rate. Similarly, the graded risk published by Song et al. indicated that lower mortality rate was associated with replacing animal protein of different origins with plant protein.[S3.1-9] The evidence is mixed with regard to the effectiveness of dairy intake to reduce ASCVD risk factors, which is why it is not included in the listed foods for this recommendation. Although the DASH (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) diet, which includes low-fat dairy products, was shown to reduce BP,[S3.1-14] and the PURE (Prospective Urban Rural Epidemiology) study indicated that dairy intake was associated with a 23% lower mortality rate,[S3.1-31] Song et al. indicated an 11% increase in cardiovascular mortality rate with dairy consumption as compared with vegetable protein S3.1-9).

2. *Trans* and saturated fats have been associated with a higher risk of total and cause-specific death.[S3.1-12] However, observational data from the PURE trial suggested that, when used instead of refined carbohydrates, saturated and unsaturated fats were associated with reduced stroke and mortality.[S3.1-13]
3. Dietary sodium reduction was found to reduce BP and cardiovascular events in the DASH trial and in TOHP (Trials of Hypertension Prevention).[S3.1-14,S3.1-15] Data from NHANES (National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys)[S3.1-16] suggest that high consumption of sodium (>2000 mg daily), red meat (>14 g/d), and sugar-sweetened beverages and processed red meat consumption were associated with cardiovascular death. A prospective cohort study of US healthcare professionals[S3.1-9] with at least 1 risk factor indicated that replacement of animal protein (sources of cholesterol, saturated fat, heme iron and precursors of trimethylamine-N-oxide) with plant protein was associated with reduced cardiovascular mortality rate. In that study, compared with plant protein, poultry and fish were associated with a 6% higher mortality rate, dairy with an 8% higher mortality rate, unprocessed red meat with a 12% higher mortality rate, eggs with a 19% higher mortality rate, and processed red meat with a 34% higher mortality rate. Overall, plant protein was associated with a reduction in mortality rate of 10% for every 3% energy increment replacement of animal protein.
4. Intake of several food products has been shown to be potentially harmful or increase risk of ASCVD. Sugar-sweetened and artificially sweetened beverages have been correlated with increasing the development of T2DM and with ASCVD risk, with a 20% increase in the frequency of diabetes mellitus with 1 daily serving of these sweetened beverages.[S3.1-18] In large cohort studies, consumption of added sugar at >10% of daily calories has been associated with increased mortality rate.[S3.1-19] However, adults who are habitually high consumers of sugar-sweetened beverages and utilize low calorie sweetened beverages as a replacement strategy that provides a sweet taste while reducing caloric intake may find this useful in the transition to water.[S3.1-20] In REGARDS (REasons for Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke),[S3.1-21] the Southern dietary pattern was identified as substantially increasing health risks, including a 56% higher risk of heart disease and a 30% higher risk of stroke. This pattern consisted of more fried food, added fats, organ and processed meats, and sugar-sweetened beverages. Consuming a diet[S3.1-4] with juices and sweetened beverages, refined grains, potatoes/fries, and sweets resulted in a greater increase in coronary events than the increase seen with consumption of animal products. Given the additional risk associated with intake of these various food products, clinicians would do well to counsel individuals about their associated harm and advise them to avoid these foods when possible. Furthermore, longstanding dietary patterns that focus on low intake of carbohydrates and a high intake of animal fat and protein are associated with increased cardiac and noncardiac mortality rate.[S3.1-22–S3.1-24] In 1 meta-analysis,[S3.1-23] low-carbohydrate diets were associated with a 31% higher risk of all-cause death, with increased cardiac mortality rate. Population data from the ARIC (Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities) study indicated an 18% increase in mortality rate with

low-carbohydrate diets using animal-derived protein and fat sources (eg, lamb, beef, pork, chicken),[S3.1-22] but plant sources (eg, vegetables, nuts, peanut butter, whole-grain breads) were associated with lower mortality rate. In addition, the ARIC investigators noted a 23% increase in mortality rate associated with high-carbohydrate diets, with the optimal carbohydrate intake observed to be 50% to 55%.

5. Intake of *trans* fat has been shown to be harmful and increase risk of ASCVD. *Trans* fat was associated with higher all-cause mortality rate in the REGARDS US healthcare professionals cohort studies.[S3.1-12,S3.1-17] Additionally, regulations to curb use of *trans* fat in the food industry have been associated with a decrease in stroke and MI.[S3.1-25] *Trans* fats have adverse effects on lipid and lipoproteins and promote endothelial dysfunction, insulin resistance, inflammation, and arrhythmias.[S3.1-26] Since partially hydrogenated oils are optional food additives, their elimination has been a public health priority.[S3.1-27]

3.2. Exercise and Physical Activity

Recommendations for Exercise and Physical Activity
Referenced studies that support recommendations are summarized in Online Data Supplements 6 and 7.

COR	LOE	Recommendations
I	B-R	1. Adults should be routinely counseled in healthcare visits to optimize a physically active lifestyle.[S3.2-1,S3.2-2]
I	B-NR	2. Adults should engage in at least 150 minutes per week of accumulated moderate-intensity or 75 minutes per week of vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity (or an equivalent combination of moderate and vigorous activity) to reduce ASCVD risk.[S3.2-3–S3.2-8]
IIa	B-NR	3. For adults unable to meet the minimum physical activity recommendations (at least 150 minutes per week of accumulated moderate-intensity or 75 minutes per week of vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity), engaging in some moderate- or vigorous-intensity physical activity, even if less than this recommended amount, can be beneficial to reduce ASCVD risk.[S3.2-5,S3.2-6]
IIb	C-LD	4. Decreasing sedentary behavior in adults may be reasonable to reduce ASCVD risk.[S3.2-3,S3.2-9–S3.2-11]

Synopsis

The numerous health benefits of regular physical activity have been well established,[S3.2-12–S3.2-15] and physical activity is a cornerstone of maintaining and improving cardiovascular health.[S3.2-6] Nevertheless, approximately half of adults in the United States do not meet the minimum physical activity recommendations.[S3.2-12] Strategies are needed to increase physical activity at both the individual and the population levels.[S3.2-16,S3.2-17]

Extensive observational data from meta-analyses and systematic reviews support recommendations for aerobic physical activity to lower ASCVD risk.[S3.2-3–S3.2-8,S3.2-12,S3.2-18,S3.2-19] Resistance exercise should also be encouraged because of its several health benefits, including improving physical functioning,[S3.2-20] improving glycemic control in individuals with diabetes,[S3.2-21] and possibly BP lowering.[S3.2-22] Whether resistance exercise lowers ASCVD risk is unclear.[S3.2-12]

Aerobic physical activity is generally very safe.[S3.2-23] However, sedentary individuals starting an exercise program should initiate exercise at a lower intensity (eg, slow walking) and duration and progress gradually to recommended levels.[S3.2-24] It is uncertain whether an upper limit of habitual exercise, either in amount or intensity, may have adverse cardiovascular consequences.[S3.2-25] But, in discussions with patients, it should be mentioned that these very high levels of physical activity (ie, >10 times the minimum recommended amount) pertain to only a small fraction of the population.[S3.2-12] Individuals with significant functional impairments may need modifications to and more specific guidance on the type, duration, and intensity of physical activity.

Recommendation-Specific Supportive Text

1. Physical activity assessment and counseling in the healthcare setting have important complementary roles in promoting increased physical activity.[S3.2-16] Ascertaining physical activity patterns during a standard clinical visit is the first step toward effective counseling and can be accomplished through several available simple assessment tools.[S3.2-16] The results of these tools can be recorded in the electronic health record, along with parameters such as weight and BP.[S3.2-16] Physical activity counseling by clinicians can result in modest improvements in physical activity levels, with a number needed to counsel as low as 12 for an individual to achieve recommended physical activity levels.[S3.2-1,S3.2-2] This counseling might include an exercise prescription that consists of recommended frequency, intensity, time (duration), and type of exercise.
2. There is a consistent, strong, inverse dose–response relationship between the amount of moderate to vigorous physical activity and incident ASCVD events and death.[S3.2-3–S3.2-8,S3.2-12] The shape of the dose–response relationship is curvilinear, with significant benefit observed when comparing those engaging in little or no physical activity with those performing moderate

Table 4. Definitions and Examples of Different Intensities of Physical Activity

Intensity	METs	Examples
Sedentary behavior*	1–1.5	Sitting, reclining, or lying; watching television
Light	1.6–2.9	Walking slowly, cooking, light housework
Moderate	3.0–5.9	Brisk walking (2.4–4 mph), biking (5–9 mph), ballroom dancing, active yoga, recreational swimming
Vigorous	≥6	Jogging/running, biking (≥10 mph), singles tennis, swimming laps

**Sedentary behavior* is defined as any waking behavior characterized by an energy expenditure ≤1.5 METs while in a sitting, reclining, or lying posture. Standing is a sedentary activity in that it involves ≤1.5 METs, but it is not considered a component of sedentary behavior.

MET indicates metabolic equivalent; and mph, miles per hour.

amounts.[S3.2-5,S3.2-6,S3.2-12] All adults should engage in at least 150 minutes per week of accumulated moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity or 75 minutes per week of vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity (or an equivalent combination of moderate and vigorous activity) to lower ASCVD risk (Table 4). These recommendations are in line with those of other health organizations.[S3.2-26] Shorter durations of exercise seem to be as beneficial as longer ones (eg, ≥10-minute bouts),[S3.2-27,S3.2-28] and thus the focus of physical activity counseling should be on the total accumulated amount. Additional reduction in ASCVD risk is seen in those achieving higher amounts of aerobic physical activity (>300 minutes per week of moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity or 150 minutes per week of vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity).[S3.2-5,S3.2-6,S3.2-12,S3.2-14] There is a continued but diminishing additive benefit of further increasing physical activity to very high levels.[S3.2-5,S3.2-6,S3.2-12] Specific exercise recommendations for the prevention of heart failure may differ slightly because the dose–response relationship with increasing physical activity levels may be linear.[S3.2-29]

3. There is likely no lower limit on the quantity of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity at which benefits for ASCVD risk start to accrue.[S3.2-6] All efforts should be made to promote achievement of the minimum recommended amount of physical activity by all adults. However, for individuals unable to achieve this minimum, encouraging at least some moderate-to-vigorous physical activity among those who are inactive (ie, no moderate-to-vigorous physical activity) or increasing the amount in those who are insufficiently active is still likely beneficial to reduce ASCVD risk.[S3.2-6] Strategies to further increase physical activity in those achieving less than targeted amounts should be implemented.

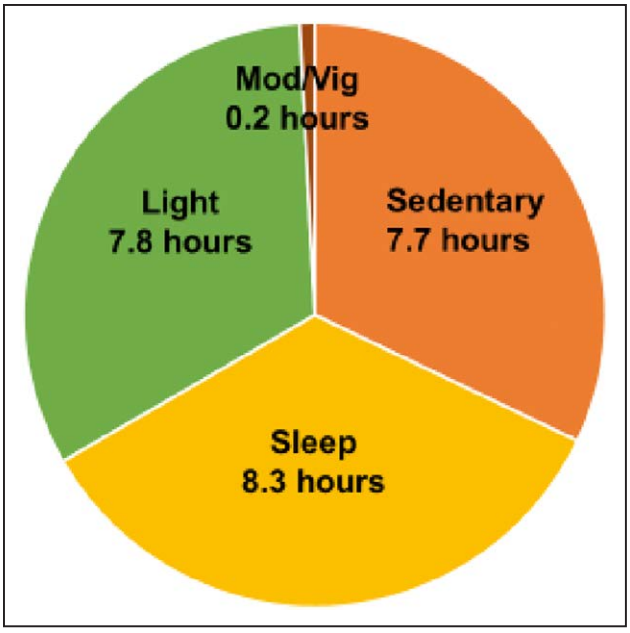

Figure 1. Hours per day spent in various states of activity.
US adults spend >7 h/d on average in sedentary activities. Replacing sedentary time with other physical activity involves increasing either moderate- to vigorous-intensity physical activity or light-intensity physical activity. Data modified from Young et al.[S3.2-30]

4. Despite the focus on moderate- and vigorous-intensity physical activity, such activity accounts for a small proportion of individuals' daily time as compared with other forms of activity. Other activity states that comprise a 24-hour period for an average individual include sleep, light-intensity physical activity, and sedentary behavior (Figure 1). *Sedentary behavior* refers to waking behavior with an energy expenditure of ≤1.5 metabolic equivalents while in a sitting or reclining posture (Table 4).[S3.2-30] Increased sedentary behavior is associated with worse health parameters, including cardiometabolic risk factors.[S3.2-3,S3.2-9–S3.2-11] Sedentary behavior may be most deleterious to ASCVD risk for individuals who engage in the least amount of moderate to vigorous physical activity.[S3.2-3,S3.2-10,S3.2-12] Thus, strategies to reduce sedentary behavior, particularly in those not achieving current recommended physical activity levels, may be beneficial for lowering ASCVD risk. However, data on the value of reducing or modifying sedentary behavior over time to reduce ASCVD risk are sparse, and whether replacing sedentary behavior with light-intensity activity (eg, slow walking, light work) is beneficial for ASCVD prevention is unclear.[S3.2-31] The strength and specificity of the recommendation to reduce sedentary behavior are limited by uncertainty about the appropriate limits of and optimal approach to modifying sedentary behavior.[S3.2-30]

4. OTHER FACTORS AFFECTING CARDIOVASCULAR RISK

4.1. Adults With Overweight and Obesity

Recommendations for Adults With Overweight and Obesity
Referenced studies that support recommendations are summarized in Online Data Supplements 8 and 9.

COR	LOE	Recommendations
I	B-R	1. In individuals with overweight and obesity, weight loss is recommended to improve the ASCVD risk factor profile.[0650]
I	B-R	2. Counseling and comprehensive lifestyle interventions, including calorie restriction, are recommended for achieving and maintaining weight loss in adults with overweight and obesity.[S4.1-1,S4.1-2]
I	C-EO	3. Calculating body mass index (BMI) is recommended annually or more frequently to identify adults with overweight and obesity for weight loss considerations.
IIa	B-NR	4. It is reasonable to measure waist circumference to identify those at higher cardiometabolic risk.[S4.1-3–S4.1-6]

Synopsis

The increased availability of affordable, palatable, and high-calorie foods and the decreased physical demands of many jobs have fueled the epidemic of obesity and the consequent increases in hypertension and T2DM.[S4.1-7] Adults diagnosed as obese (BMI ≥30 kg/m^2) or overweight (BMI=25 to 29.9 kg/m^2) are at increased risk of ASCVD, heart failure, and atrial fibrillation, compared with those of a normal weight.[S4.1-8,S4.1-9] The nutritional aspects of obesity revolve around the principle of balancing caloric intake with caloric expenditure. Following the 2013 Guideline for the Management of Overweight and Obesity in Adults from the AHA, ACC, and The Obesity Society (TOS), adults with overweight/obesity are advised to participate in comprehensive lifestyle programs of ≥6 months' duration that assist participants in adhering to a low-calorie diet (800 to 1500 kcal/day) and increased physical activity. Existing clinical guidance strongly recommends face-to-face or telephone-delivered weight-loss maintenance programs that provide regular contact (at least monthly) with a trained interventionist to help participants engage in high levels of physical activity (200 to 300 minutes/week), monitor body weight regularly (at least weekly), and consume a reduced-calorie diet.[S4.1-10]

US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)–approved pharmacological therapies[S4.1-1,S4.1-11] and bariatric surgery,[S4.1-12] adjunctive to complementary lifestyle interventions, additionally reduce weight and may have a role in weight loss for select patients. The present guideline document focuses primarily on lifestyle interventions for overweight and obesity, as outlined in the 2013 AHA/ACC/TOS Guideline for the Management of Overweight and Obesity in Adults.[S4.1-10] Weight loss interventions should be cautiously implemented and individualized, especially in older adults, to avoid detrimental effects, such as loss of lean body/muscle mass and nutritional deficiencies.[S4.1-13–S4.1-15]

Recommendation-Specific Supportive Text

1. Clinically meaningful weight loss (≥5% initial weight) is associated with moderate improvement in BP, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), triglyceride, and glucose levels among individuals with overweight/obesity.[S4.1-1] Weight loss reduces or delays the development of T2DM in persons with obesity.[S4.1-1,S4.1-16,S4.1-17] High-intensity (≥14 sessions in 6 months) comprehensive weight-loss interventions provided by a trained interventionist work best.[S4.1-10] However, other modalities, such as electronically delivered weight-loss programs with personalized feedback and some commercial-based programs, have also shown moderate results.
2. Comprehensive lifestyle intervention consists of a structured program, which includes regular self-monitoring of food intake, physical activity, and weight. Increased physical activity, preferably aerobic physical activity (eg, brisk walking) for ≥150 minutes/week (equal to ≥30 minutes/day on most days of the week), is recommended for initial weight loss.[S4.1-10] Higher levels of physical activity, approximately 200 to 300 minutes/week, are recommended to maintain weight loss or minimize weight regain after 1 year. Adults with obesity are also typically prescribed a diet designed to reduce caloric intake by ≥500 kcal/day from baseline, which often can be attained by limiting women to 1200 to 1500 kcal/day and men to 1500 to 1800 kcal/day.[S4.1-10] A very-low-calorie diet (defined as <800 kcal/day) should be prescribed only in limited circumstances and only by trained clinicians in a medical care setting with the patient under medical supervision.[S4.1-10] Comprehensive lifestyle intervention has been shown to produce on average 8 kg of weight loss (5% to 10% of initial body weight) in the short term (≤6 months) and intermediate term (6 to 12 months), compared with usual care.[S4.1-1,S4.1-10] However, longer interventions after 1 year are associated with gradual weight gain of 1 or 2 kg/year (on average), compared with usual care. Weight loss of 5% to 10% of initial weight, achieved through comprehensive lifestyle intervention, has been shown to improve BP, delay the onset of T2DM, improve glycemic control in T2DM, and improve lipid profile.[S4.1-1,S4.1-2]
3. Measures used to estimate body fat and quantify the associated health risks include BMI, waist

circumference, waist–hip ratio, bioimpedance, and dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA).[S4.1-18] BMI, waist circumference, and waist–hip ratio are easily measured and therefore are the most widely used in clinical practice. A USPSTF document found good evidence supporting the use of BMI to identify adults at increased risk of future morbidity and mortality.[S4.1-18] Because obesity/overweight defined by BMI is the most studied and standardized approach, we recommend its measurement for primary screening of individuals needing weight loss. BMI should be interpreted with caution in persons of Asian ancestry, older adults, and muscular adults.[S4.1-19,S4.1-20]

4. Increased waist circumference has been associated with increased cardiometabolic and ASCVD risk.[S4.1-3–S4.1-6] Central adiposity, captured by using waist circumference, has been associated with ASCVD risk and may be missed when BMI is used as the only measure of obesity.[S4.1-21,S4.1-22] Waist circumference measurement is recommended in all patients with BMI <35 kg/m^2.[S4.1-9,S4.1-19,S4.1-23] Ethnic differences in waist circumference thresholds associated with cardiometabolic risk have been reported. Waist circumference may be more useful than BMI in persons with abdominal obesity (central adiposity).[S4.1-24] Definitions of elevated waist circumference as ≥40 inches (≥102 cm) in men and ≥35 inches (≥88 cm) in women were recommended by the 1998 National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Obesity Initiative Expert Panel[S4.1-25] and were adopted by the 2013 AHA/ACC/TOS writing committee.[S4.1-1] Furthermore, waist circumference assessment is needed for the diagnosis of metabolic syndrome. Thus, combining waist circumference and BMI may be the best approach for assessing obesity-related risk. Counseling and comprehensive lifestyle interventions, including calorie restriction and adjunctive therapies (eg, FDA–approved drugs, bariatric surgery), have all been associated with significant reductions in waist circumference and improvement in cardiometabolic risk profiles.[S4.1-1]

4.2. Adults With Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

See Figure 2 for an algorithm for treatment of T2DM for primary prevention of cardiovascular disease.

Recommendations for Adults With Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus
Referenced studies that support recommendations are summarized in Online Data Supplement 10.

COR	LOE	Recommendations
I	A	1. For all adults with T2DM, a tailored nutrition plan focusing on a heart-healthy dietary pattern is recommended to improve glycemic control, achieve weight loss if needed, and improve other ASCVD risk factors.[S4.2-1,S4.2-2]

Recommendations for Adults With Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (Continued)

COR	LOE	Recommendations
I	A	2. Adults with T2DM should perform at least 150 minutes per week of moderate-intensity physical activity or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity physical activity to improve glycemic control, achieve weight loss if needed, and improve other ASCVD risk factors.[S4.2-3,S4.2-4]
IIa	B-R	3. For adults with T2DM, it is reasonable to initiate metformin as first-line therapy along with lifestyle therapies at the time of diagnosis to improve glycemic control and reduce ASCVD risk.[S4.2-5–S4.2-8]
IIb	B-R	4. For adults with T2DM and additional ASCVD risk factors who require glucose-lowering therapy despite initial lifestyle modifications and metformin, it may be reasonable to initiate a sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT-2) inhibitor or a glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor (GLP-1R) agonist to improve glycemic control and reduce CVD risk.[S4.2-9–S4.2-14]

Synopsis

T2DM, defined as a hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) >6.5%, is a metabolic disorder characterized by insulin resistance leading to hyperglycemia. Unlike type 1 diabetes mellitus (an autoimmune condition largely unrelated to lifestyle factors), the development and progression of T2DM are heavily influenced by dietary pattern, physical activity, and body weight. Approximately 12% of US adults have diabetes, 90% to 95% of whom have T2DM, with significant heterogeneity according to age, sex, race/ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.[S4.2-15] Alarmingly, more than one-third of US adults (≈80 million adults) have prediabetes and are at risk of developing T2DM.[S4.2-15]*

Although contemporary data have shown a significant decrease in ASCVD rates in individuals with T2DM,[S4.2-15] T2DM remains a highly prevalent disease and a major ASCVD risk factor. An aggressive, comprehensive approach to ASCVD risk factor treatment in adults with T2DM reduces ASCVD events.[S4.2-16] Management of cholesterol and hypertension in adults with T2DM is discussed in the relevant sections of the present guideline (see Sections 4.3. and 4.4.).

Recommendation-Specific Supportive Text

1. A heart-healthy dietary pattern is a key intervention in the treatment of T2DM. The Mediterranean, DASH, and vegetarian/vegan diets have all been shown to help in the achievement of weight loss and improve glycemic control in T2DM.[S4.2-1,S4.2-2] Prospective cohorts have demonstrated a significantly

*An HbA1c is the optimal screening method, with a level ≥6.5% indicating T2DM.

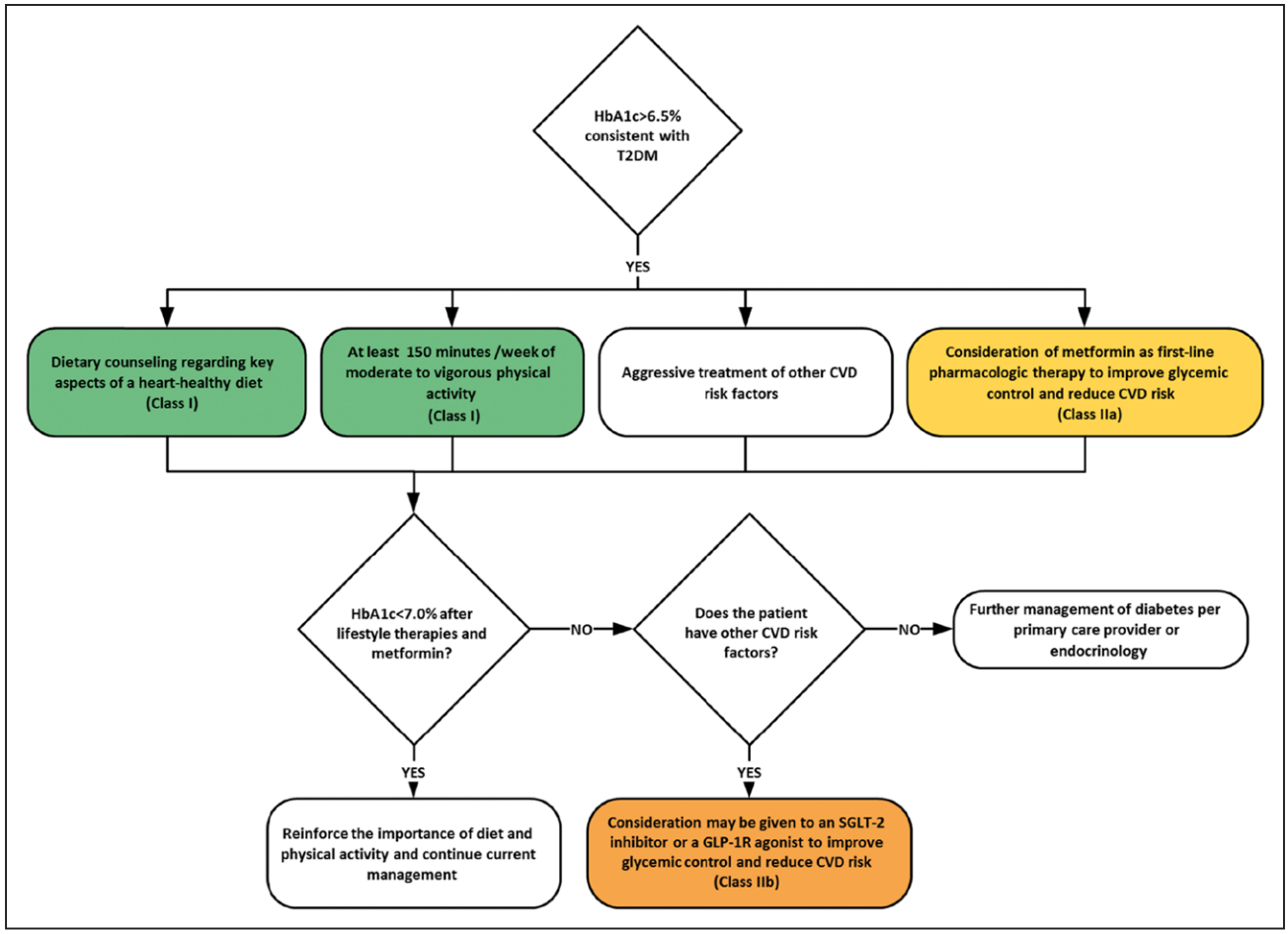

Figure 2. Treatment of T2DM for primary prevention of cardiovascular disease.
CVD indicates cardiovascular disease; GLP-1R, glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor; HbA1c, hemoglobin A1c; SGLT-2, sodium-glucose cotransporter 2; and T2DM, type 2 diabetes mellitus.

lower likelihood of CVD events and CVD death in adults with T2DM who follow a healthy dietary pattern.[S4.2-17] However, an RCT targeting aggressive lifestyle interventions in T2DM was unable to show a reduction in ASCVD events despite early success in achieving weight loss.[S4.2-18]

The quality of carbohydrate intake is especially important for control of T2DM, and focus should be placed on the intake of fiber-rich whole grains and avoidance of refined carbohydrates.[S4.2-19] Additionally, red meat consumption has been shown to increase the risk of T2DM, and decreasing intake of red meat can improve glycemic control.[S4.2-20,S4.2-21] Weight loss is an essential treatment component for T2DM, and dietary recommendations should be adjusted to achieve meaningful weight loss, if needed. Establishing an appropriate nutrition plan requires time and effort and is best accomplished with assistance from a registered dietitian-nutritionist or a diabetes education program.

2. Initiation of an exercise program for those with T2DM has been shown to improve glycemic control, with a prior meta-analysis showing a significant reduction in mean HbA1c (7.65% versus 8.31%) in individuals assigned to an exercise program versus control groups.[S4.2-22] The combination of aerobic and resistance training further improves glycemic control and facilitates weight loss more than either type of exercise alone.[S4.2-3,S4.2-4] Prospective cohort studies have provided supportive data for the benefits of physical activity in individuals with T2DM, with increased levels of physical activity associated with lower rates of CVD events and CVD death.[S4.2-17]

How to best promote physical activity in individuals with T2DM remains unclear. For older individuals with other comorbidities, a simple walking program may be ideal, whereas for younger, healthier individuals, a variety of activities should be encouraged. In addition to a structured exercise program, a general increase in physical activity throughout the day (eg, taking the stairs, walking or biking to work, avoiding prolonged periods of sitting) should be encouraged.

3. Metformin decreases hepatic glucose production and increases peripheral insulin sensitivity,

leading to a reduction in hyperglycemia in adults with T2DM. In a substudy of the UKPDS (United Kingdom Prospective Diabetes Study), metformin, compared with conventional therapy (ie, lifestyle modifications alone), resulted in a 32% reduction in microvascular and macrovascular diabetes-related outcomes, a 39% reduction in MI, and a 36% reduction in all-cause mortality rate.[S4.2-5] A 2016 systematic review and meta-analysis of glucose-lowering therapies for T2DM supported the use of metformin as first-line therapy for T2DM because of its beneficial effects on HbA1c, weight, and improved ASCVD outcomes (compared with sulfonylureas), as well as its acceptable safety profile and low cost. However, a separate systematic review found no evidence of reduced CVD events or CVD deaths with metformin.[S4.2-8] Metformin carries a small risk of lactic acidosis and must be used with caution in patients with CKD. For younger individuals or those with a mildly elevated HbA1c at the time of diagnosis of T2DM, clinicians can consider a trial of lifestyle therapies for 3 to 6 months before reconsideration of metformin.

4. Several classes of medications have been shown to effectively lower blood glucose but may or may not affect ASCVD risk.[S4.2-23–S4.2-26] However, 2 classes of glucose-lowering medications have recently been demonstrated to reduce CVD events in adults with T2DM and high ASCVD risk. SGLT-2 inhibitors act in the proximal tubule to increase urinary excretion of glucose and sodium, leading to a reduction in HbA1c, body weight, and BP. Three RCTs have shown a significant reduction in ASCVD events and heart failure with use of an SGLT-2 inhibitor.[S4.2-9,S4.2-10,S4.2-12] Although most patients studied had established CVD at baseline, the reduction in heart failure has been shown to extend to primary prevention populations.[S4.2-12,S4.2-27] The GLP-1R agonists increase insulin and glucagon production in the liver, increase glucose uptake in muscle and adipose tissue, and decrease hepatic glucose production. Three GLP-1R agonists have been found to significantly reduce the risk of ASCVD in adults with T2DM who are at high ASCVD risk.[S4.2-11,S4.2-13,S4.2-14] As opposed to a reduction in heart failure with SGLT-2 inhibitors, the benefit of the GLP-1R agonists has been a reduction in ASCVD events though the majority of patients studied had established CVD.

   In patients with T2DM and additional risk factors for CVD, it may be reasonable to initiate these 2 classes of medications for primary prevention of CVD.

4.3. Adults With High Blood Cholesterol

Recommendations from the 2018 Cholesterol Clinical Practice Guidelines[S4.3-1] are included and adapted below.

Recommendations for Adults With High Blood Cholesterol

Referenced studies that support recommendations are summarized in Online Data Supplements 11 and 12.

COR	LOE	Recommendations
I	A	1. In adults at intermediate risk (≥7.5% to <20% 10-year ASCVD risk), statin therapy reduces risk of ASCVD, and in the context of a risk discussion, if a decision is made for statin therapy, a moderate-intensity statin should be recommended.[S4.3-2–S4.3-9] Adapted from recommendations in the 2018 Cholesterol Clinical Practice Guidelines.[S4.3-1]
I	A	2. In intermediate risk (≥7.5% to <20% 10-year ASCVD risk) patients, LDL-C levels should be reduced by 30% or more, and for optimal ASCVD risk reduction, especially in patients at high risk (≥20% 10-year ASCVD risk), levels should be reduced by 50% or more.[S4.3-2,S4.3-5–S4.3-10] Adapted from recommendations in the 2018 Cholesterol Clinical Practice Guidelines.[S4.3-1]
I	A	3. In adults 40 to 75 years of age with diabetes, regardless of estimated 10-year ASCVD risk, moderate-intensity statin therapy is indicated.[S4.3-11–S4.3-19] Included from recommendations in the 2018 Cholesterol Clinical Practice Guidelines.[S4.3-1]
I	B-R	4. In patients 20 to 75 years of age with an LDL-C level of 190 mg/dL (≥4.9 mmol/L) or higher, maximally tolerated statin therapy is recommended.[S4.3-2,S4.3-20–S4.3-25] Included from recommendations in the 2018 Cholesterol Clinical Practice Guidelines.[S4.3-1]
IIa	B-R	5. In adults with diabetes mellitus who have multiple ASCVD risk factors, it is reasonable to prescribe high-intensity statin therapy with the aim to reduce LDL-C levels by 50% or more.[S4.3-2,S4.3-7] Included from recommendations in the 2018 Cholesterol Clinical Practice Guidelines.[S4.3-1]
IIa	B-R	6. In intermediate-risk (≥7.5% to <20% 10-year ASCVD risk) adults, risk-enhancing factors favor initiation or intensification of statin therapy.[S4.3-7,S4.3-26–S4.3-33] Adapted from recommendations in the 2018 Cholesterol Clinical Practice Guidelines.[S4.3-1]
IIa	B-NR	7. In intermediate-risk (≥7.5% to <20% 10-year ASCVD risk) adults or selected borderline-risk (5% to <7.5% 10-year ASCVD risk) adults in whom a coronary artery calcium score is measured for the purpose of making a treatment decision, AND If the coronary artery calcium score is zero, it is reasonable to withhold statin therapy and reassess in 5 to 10 years, as long as higher-risk conditions are absent (eg, diabetes, family history of premature CHD, cigarette smoking); If coronary artery calcium score is 1 to 99, it is reasonable to initiate statin therapy for patients ≥55 years of age; If coronary artery calcium score is 100 or higher or in the 75th percentile or higher, it is reasonable to initiate statin therapy.[S4.3-28,S4.3-34] Adapted from recommendations in the 2018 Cholesterol Clinical Practice Guidelines.[S4.3-1]
IIb	B-R	8. In patients at borderline risk (5% to <7.5% 10-year ASCVD risk), in risk discussion, the presence of risk-enhancing factors may justify initiation of moderate-intensity statin therapy.[S4.3-28,S4.3-35] Adapted from recommendations in the 2018 Cholesterol Clinical Practice Guidelines.[S4.3-1]

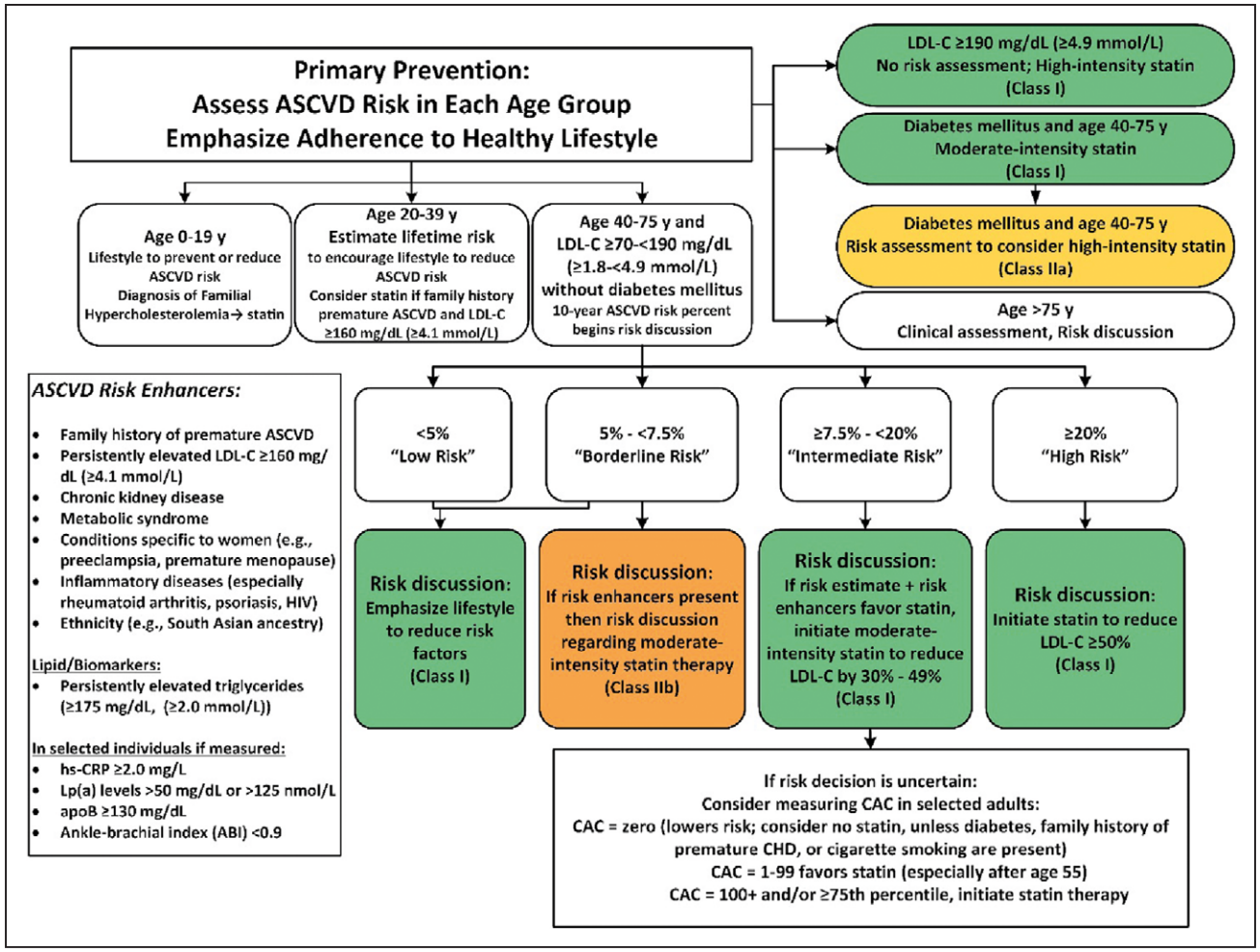

Figure 3. Primary prevention.
Colors correspond to Class of Recommendation in Table 1. ABI indicates ankle-brachial index; apoB, apolipoprotein B; ASCVD, atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease; CAC, coronary artery calcium; CHD, coronary heart disease; HIV, human immunodeficiency virus; hs-CRP, high-sensitivity C-reactive protein; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; and Lp(a), lipoprotein (a). Reproduced with permission from Grundy et al.[S4.3-1] Copyright © 2018, American Heart Association, Inc., and American College of Cardiology Foundation.

Synopsis

Primary ASCVD prevention requires attention to ASCVD risk factors beginning early in life (Figure 3). This guideline addresses major issues related to cholesterol management and primary ASCVD prevention, which are also addressed in the recently published 2018 Cholesterol Clinical Practice Guidelines.[S4.3-1] Therefore, the relevant subset of those recommendations is presented here, along with its accompanying supportive text. This writing committee agrees that for young adults (20 to 39 years of age), priority should be given to estimating lifetime risk and promoting a healthy lifestyle. Only in select patients with moderately high LDL-C (≥160 mg/dL) or those with very high LDL-C (≥190 mg/dL) is drug therapy indicated. In adults 40 to 75 years of age, 10-year ASCVD risk should guide therapeutic considerations. The higher the estimated risk, the more likely the patient is to benefit from statin treatment. For patients >75 years of age, assessment of risk status and a clinician patient risk discussion are needed to decide whether to continue or initiate statin treatment. For a detailed discussion of statin safety and management of statin-associated side effects, please refer to Section 5 of the 2018 Cholesterol Clinical Practice Guidelines.[S4.3-1]

Recommendation-Specific Supportive Text

1. Large-scale RCTs in primary prevention demonstrated ASCVD risk reduction with moderate-intensity[S4.3-6,S4.3-36] and high-intensity statin therapy[S4.3-7] that outweighed the observable risks. Subsequently, a large-scale RCT in an ethnically and racially diverse population confirmed statin benefit from a moderate-intensity statin therapy, as compared with placebo, in intermediate-risk patients. That RCT enrolled men ≥55 years of age and women ≥65 years of age with at least 1 cardiovascular risk factor. In the placebo

group, the 10-year risk of "hard ASCVD" was 8.7%, and the risk of the expanded ASCVD endpoint that included coronary revascularization was 10%.[S4.3-9] After 5.6 years, those assigned to rosuvastatin 10 mg per day showed significant absolute risk reduction in both co-primary endpoints, with an acceptable safety record. By comparison, after a median follow-up of 1.9 years, those assigned to a high-intensity statin dose of rosuvastatin in the JUPITER (Justification for the Use of Statins in Prevention: an Intervention Trial Evaluating Rosuvastatin) RCT achieved greater LDL-C lowering and greater reductions in ASCVD outcomes.[S4.3-7] This corroborates meta-analyses demonstrating that in those at risk, net benefit of LDL-C–lowering therapy is greater with greater reductions in LDL-C.[S4.3-2,S4.3-10]

2. If in the context of a risk discussion, maximal ASCVD risk reduction is desired, it is reasonable to use a high-intensity statin to lower LDL-C by ≥50%. This provides increased benefit, especially when 10-year ASCVD risk is ≥20%. JUPITER enrolled men ≥50 years of age and women ≥60 years of age with high-sensitivity C-reactive protein values ≥2.0 mg/L and LDL-C <130 mg/dL. Participants randomly assigned to 20 mg per day of rosuvastatin achieved a median LDL-C reduction of 50% and a highly significant ASCVD risk reduction at 1.9 years.[S4.3-7] Importantly, the magnitude of the percent LDL-C reduction achieved determined benefit.[S4.3-29] The USPSTF systematic review of statin therapy in primary prevention showed a reduced risk of all-cause and cardiovascular mortality and ASCVD events and noted greater absolute benefits in those at greater baseline risk,[S4.3-5] consistent with other high-quality systematic reviews and meta-analyses.[S4.3-2,S4.3-8,S4.3-35] This underscores the need for aggressive and safe risk reduction in the highest-risk groups and the need for follow-up LDL-C testing to determine adherence and adequacy of effect of the statin prescribed.[S4.3-1]
3. Most patients 40 to 75 years of age with diabetes are at intermediate or high risk (PCE ≥7.5% 10-year risk) of ASCVD events.[S4.3-15,S4.3-16,S4.3-18] Three of 4 double-blinded primary-prevention RCTs of moderate statin therapy in large cohorts with diabetes in this age range showed significant reductions in ASCVD events.[S4.3-11,S4.3-12,S4.3-14,S4.3-17] A meta-analysis of these trials found that moderate-intensity statin therapy was associated with a risk reduction of 25%,[S4.3-13] similar to people without diabetes and with no apparent difference in benefit between type 1 diabetes mellitus and T2DM. Therefore, moderate-intensity statin therapy is indicated for primary prevention in patients 40 to 75 years of age with diabetes.
4. Patients with primary severe hypercholesterolemia (LDL-C ≥190 mg/dL [≥4.9 mmol/L]) have a high risk of ASCVD[S4.3-23] and premature and recurrent coronary events. Although no randomized, placebo-controlled trials of statin therapy have been done exclusively in subjects with LDL-C ≥190 mg/dL, a placebo-controlled primary-prevention study performed in men with a mean baseline LDL-C of 192 ± 17 mg/dL demonstrated a reduced incidence of MI and cardiovascular death in those receiving pravastatin 40 mg daily.[S4.3-24] These findings were extended in a post hoc analysis of 2 560 exclusively primary-prevention subjects in that RCT and in a 20-year observational post-trial long-term follow-up study.[S4.3-37] Because moderate- or high-intensity statins have been shown to reduce ASCVD risk and because high-intensity statins provide greater ASCVD risk reduction than do moderate-intensity statins or placebo,[S4.3-2] maximally tolerated statin therapy should be administered to patients with LDL-C ≥190 mg/dL. Please refer to the 2018 cholesterol guideline[S4.3-1] for recommendations on the use of non-statin therapies in these patients.
5. The occurrence of a first ASCVD event in patients 40 to 75 years of age with diabetes is associated with increased morbidity and mortality compared with those without diabetes, which places a particularly high premium on primary prevention in individuals with diabetes in that age range. Although trials using moderate-intensity statin therapy have demonstrated significant benefit in such individuals, the residual risk in the statin treatment groups in these trials remained high. (eg, 8.5% had major cardiovascular events in 3.8 years).[S4.3-13] The benefit from statin therapy is related to both global risk and intensity of treatment,[S4.3-2] and no RCTs of high-intensity statin therapy have been carried out in cohorts of patients exclusively with diabetes. On the basis of these considerations and the fact that patients with diabetes have a higher trajectory of lifetime risk than do those without diabetes, high-intensity statin therapy is preferred in patients with diabetes as they develop risk modifiers (Table 5).
6. Knowledge of risk-enhancing factors (Table 3 in Section 2.2.) is useful for all individuals but particularly for those at intermediate risk (ASCVD risk of 7.5% to ≤20%). For example, in an RCT,[S4.3-38] a family history of premature ASCVD identified women ≥60 years of age with elevated hsCRP and without ASCVD who benefitted from high-intensity statin therapy. Those with primary LDL-C elevations of ≥160 mg/dL (≥4.1 mmol/L) have

Table 5. Diabetes-Specific Risk Enhancers That Are Independent of Other Risk Factors in Diabetes Mellitus

Risk Enhancers in Diabetic Patients
Long duration (≥10 years for T2DM[S4.3-61] or ≥20 years for type 1 diabetes mellitus[S4.3-16])
Albuminuria ≥30 mcg albumin/mg creatinine[S4.3-62]
eGFR <60 mL/min/1.73 m^2[S4.3-62]
Retinopathy[S4.3-63]
Neuropathy[S4.3-64]
ABI <0.9[S4.3-65,S4.3-66]

ABI indicates ankle-brachial index; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; and T2DM, type 2 diabetes mellitus.

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elevated lifetime ASCVD risk and benefit from statin therapy.[S4.3-33,S4.3-36] Increased ASCVD risk is seen with metabolic syndrome;[S4.3-31] inflammatory diseases, including psoriasis[S4.3-39] and rheumatoid arthritis; and HIV when treated with protease inhibitors.[S4.3-40] The presence of risk-enhancing factors may affect the threshold for statin initiation or intensification. Lipoprotein (a) levels, especially in those with a family history of premature ASCVD, can increase risk.[S4.3-27] However, no available RCT evidence supports lipoprotein (a) levels as a target of therapy. Moderate primary elevations of triglycerides, non–HDL-C (total cholesterol – HDL-C), and, if measured, apolipoprotein B can improve selection of those at increased ASCVD risk.[S4.3-33]

7. In adults at intermediate risk, coronary artery calcium measurement can be effective for meaningfully reclassifying risk in a large proportion of individuals.[S4.3-41–S4.3-55] In such intermediate-risk adults, those with coronary artery calcium ≥100 AU or coronary artery calcium ≥75th percentile have ASCVD event rates for which initiation of statin therapy is reasonable.[S4.3-41] Those with coronary artery calcium scores of zero appear to have 10-year event rates in a lower range for which statin therapy may be of limited value. For those with coronary artery calcium scores of 1 to 99 AU, 10-year ASCVD event rates are 3.8%, 6.5%, and 8.3% for adults 45 to 54, 55 to 64, and 65 to 74 years of age, respectively,[S4.3-34] indicating that risk reclassification is modest for individuals with coronary artery calcium scores of 1 to 99. Therefore, for patients with coronary artery calcium scores of 1 to 99, it is reasonable to repeat the risk discussion. If these patients remain untreated, repeat coronary artery calcium measurement in 5 years may have some value, but data are limited.[S4.3-56,S4.3-57] Selected examples of candidates who might benefit from knowing that their coronary artery calcium scores are zero are listed in Table 6. Clinicians should not downclassify risk in patients who have coronary artery calcium scores of zero but who are persistent cigarette smokers, have diabetes, have a family history of ASCVD, or, possibly, have chronic inflammatory conditions. In the presence of these conditions, a coronary artery calcium of zero does not rule out risk from noncalcified plaque or increased risk of thrombosis.[S4.3-58]

Table 6. Selected Examples of Candidates for Coronary Artery Calcium Measurement Who Might Benefit From Knowing Their Coronary Artery Calcium Score Is Zero

Coronary Artery Calcium Measurement Candidates Who Might Benefit from Knowing Their Coronary Artery Calcium Score Is Zero
Patients reluctant to initiate statin who wish to understand their risk and potential for benefit more precisely
Patients concerned about need to reinstitute statin therapy after discontinuation for statin-associated symptoms
Older patients (men 55–80 y of age; women 60–80 y of age) with low burden of risk factors[S4.3-53] who question whether they would benefit from statin therapy
Middle-aged adults (40–55 y of age) with PCE-calculated 10-year risk of ASCVD 5% to <7.5% with factors that increase their ASCVD risk, although they are in a borderline risk group.

Caveats: If patient is at intermediate risk and if a risk decision is uncertain and a coronary artery calcium score is obtained, it is reasonable to withhold statin therapy unless higher-risk conditions, such as cigarette smoking, family history of premature ASCVD, or diabetes mellitus, are present and to reassess coronary artery calcium score in 5 to 10 years. Moreover, if coronary artery calcium scoring is recommended, it should be performed in facilities that have current technology and expertise to deliver the lowest radiation possible.

ASCVD indicates atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; and PCE, pooled cohort equations.

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8. Benefit from statin therapy is also seen in lower-risk individuals.[S4.3-35] For those in the 5% to <7.5% risk range, available generic statins are cost-effective.[S4.3-59] Nonetheless, the challenge among those in a lower ASCVD risk category is to include those who would benefit, yet avoid casting too wide a net, to minimize treating those who would derive little benefit from statins. This risk group benefits greatly from a clinician–patient risk discussion. Clinicians should assess priorities for health care, perceived ASCVD risk, and prior risk reduction experiences and should use best practices for communicating risk to arrive at a shared risk decision. The presence of risk-enhancing factors is probably the best indicator favoring initiation of statin therapy (Table 3 in Section 2.2.).[S4.3-60] Although a coronary artery calcium score can be useful in select individuals, it will be positive less often in this lower-risk group than in those with higher levels of ASCVD risk and is not recommended routinely.[S4.3-41]

4.4. Adults With High Blood Pressure or Hypertension

Recommendations from the 2017 Hypertension Clinical Practice Guidelines[S4.4-1] are adapted below.

Recommendations for Adults With High Blood Pressure or Hypertension

Referenced studies that support recommendations are summarized in Online Data Supplements 13 and 14.

COR	LOE	Recommendations
I	A	1. In adults with elevated blood pressure (BP) or hypertension, including those requiring antihypertensive medications nonpharmacological interventions are recommended to reduce BP. These include: weight loss[S4.4-2–S4.4-5]; a heart-healthy dietary pattern[S4.4-6–S4.4-8]; sodium reduction[S4.4-9–S4.4-13]; dietary potassium supplementation[S4.4-14–S4.4-18]; increased physical activity with a structured exercise program[S4.4-3,S4.4-5,S4.4-11,S4.4-19–S4.4-23]; and limited alcohol.[S4.4-24–S4.4-29] Adapted from recommendations in the 2017 Hypertension Clinical Practice Guidelines.[S4.4-1]
I	SBP:A	2. In adults with an estimated 10-year ASCVD risk* of 10% or higher and an average systolic BP (SBP) of 130 mm Hg or higher or an average diastolic BP (DBP) of 80 mm Hg or higher, use of BP-lowering medications is recommended for primary prevention of CVD.[S4.4-30–S4.4-38] Adapted from recommendations in the 2017 Hypertension Clinical Practice Guidelines.[S4.4-1]
	DBP:C-EO	
I	SBP:B-R[SR]	3. In adults with confirmed hypertension and a 10-year ASCVD event risk of 10% or higher, a BP target of less than 130/80 mm Hg is recommended.[S4.4-33,S4.4-39–S4.4-42] Adapted from recommendations in the 2017 Hypertension Clinical Practice Guidelines.[S4.4-1]
	DBP:C-EO	
I	SBP:B-R[SR]	4. In adults with hypertension and chronic kidney disease, treatment to a BP goal of less than 130/80 mm Hg is recommended.[S4.4-43–S4.4-48] Adapted from recommendations in the 2017 Hypertension Clinical Practice Guidelines.[S4.4-1]
	DBP:C-EO	
I	SBP:B-R[SR]	5. In adults with T2DM and hypertension, antihypertensive drug treatment should be initiated at a BP of 130/80 mm Hg or higher, with a treatment goal of less than 130/80 mm Hg.[S4.4-33,S4.4-47,S4.4-49–S4.4-54] Adapted from recommendations in the 2017 Hypertension Clinical Practice Guidelines.[S4.4-1]
	DBP:C-EO	
I	C-LD	6. In adults with an estimated 10-year ASCVD risk <10% and an SBP of 140 mm Hg or higher or a DBP of 90 mm Hg or higher, initiation and use of BP-lowering medication are recommended.[S4.4-36,S4.4-55–S4.4-58] Adapted from recommendations in the 2017 Hypertension Clinical Practice Guidelines.[S4.4-1]
IIb	SBP:B-NR	7. In adults with confirmed hypertension without additional markers of increased ASCVD risk, a BP target of less than 130/80 mm Hg may be reasonable.[S4.4-59–S4.4-62] Adapted from recommendations in the 2017 Hypertension Clinical Practice Guidelines.[S4.4-1]
	DBP:C-EO	

*ACC/AHA pooled cohort equations to estimate 10-year risk of ASCVD.

Synopsis

In the United States, hypertension accounts for more ASCVD deaths than any other modifiable ASCVD risk factor.[S4.4-63] The prevalence of hypertension (defined as systolic blood pressure [SBP] ≥130 mm Hg or diastolic blood pressure [DBP] ≥80 mm Hg) among US adults is 46%; is higher in blacks than in whites, Asians, and Hispanic Americans; and increases dramatically with increasing age.[S4.4-64] In a meta-analysis of 61 prospective studies, a log-linear association was observed between SBP levels <115 to >180 mm Hg and DBP levels <75 to 105 mm Hg and risk of ASCVD.[S4.4-55] In that analysis, 20–mm Hg higher SBP and 10–mm Hg higher DBP were each associated with a doubling in the risk of death from stroke, heart disease, or other vascular disease. An increased risk of ASCVD associated with higher SBP and DBP has been reported across a broad age spectrum, from 30 to >80 years of age. Although the relative risk of incident CVD associated with higher SBP and DBP is smaller at older ages, the corresponding high BP-related increase in absolute risk is larger in older persons (≥65 years) given the higher absolute risk of CVD at an older age.[S4.4-55] See Figure 4 for the BP thresholds and treatment recommendations algorithm and refer to the 2017 Hypertension Clinical Practice Guidelines for comprehensive details.[S4.4-1]

Recommendation-Specific Supportive Text

1. Nonpharmacological interventions are effective in lowering BP and may be sufficient to prevent hypertension and to achieve goal BP in some individuals with hypertension, and they are integral in the management of those on antihypertensive medication.[S4.4-2,S4.4-3,S4.4-6,S4.4-7,S4.4-9–S4.4-11,S4.4-14,S4.4-15,S4.4-19,S4.4-20,S4.4-24] Furthermore, combining recommended nonpharmacological interventions has been shown to increase impact on BP reduction.[S4.4-65] Nonpharmacological intervention is the preferred therapy for adults with elevated BP and an appropriate first-line therapy for adults with stage 1 hypertension who have an estimated 10-year ASCVD risk of <10%. Adherence to and impact of nonpharmacological therapy should be assessed within 3 to 6 months. See Table 7 for recommended goals and approximate impact on SBP.
2. Meta-analyses and RCTs provide evidence for the benefit of BP-lowering medications on ASCVD prevention in adults with moderate to high ASCVD risk and SBP ≥130 mm Hg or DBP ≥80 mm Hg,[S4.4-32,S4.4-33,S4.4-36,S4.4-37,S4.4-66] with significant outcome reductions demonstrated in stroke, heart failure, coronary events, and death. Significant reductions

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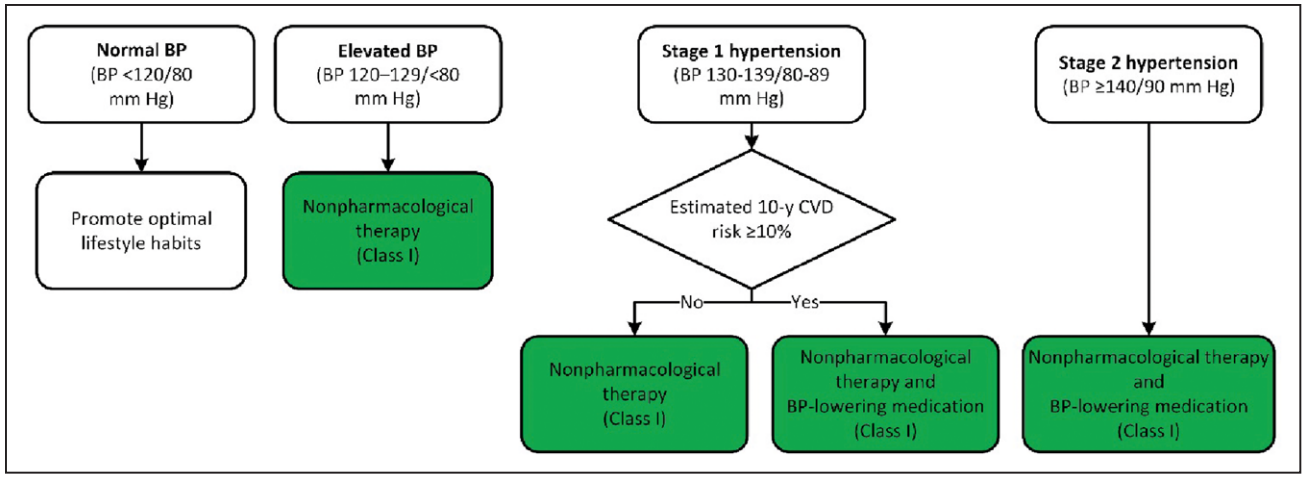

Figure 4. BP thresholds and recommendations for treatment.
Colors correspond to Class of Recommendation in Table 1. BP indicates blood pressure; and CVD, cardiovascular disease. Adapted with permission from Whelton et al.[S4.4-1] Copyright © 2017, American College of Cardiology Foundation and the American Heart Association, Inc.

were seen in stroke and all-cause death at SBP <130 mm Hg and in stroke at DBP <80 mm Hg.[S4.4-37] SPRINT (Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial) provides additional support for the use of BP-lowering medications in patients without CVD at SBP levels ≥130 mm Hg.[S4.4-34]

Antihypertensive drug treatment that is based on overall ASCVD risk assessment combined with BP levels may prevent more CVD events than treatment that is based on BP levels alone.[S4.4-67–S4.4-70] These meta-analyses are consistent in concluding that lowering of BP results in larger absolute risk reduction in higher-risk individuals, regardless of baseline treated or untreated BP ≥130/80 mm Hg and irrespective of the specific cause of elevated risk. These analyses indicate that the benefit of

Table 7. Best Proven Nonpharmacological Interventions for Prevention and Treatment of Hypertension*

	Nonpharmacological Intervention	Goal	Approximate Impact on SBP		
			Hypertension	Normotension	Reference
Weight loss	Weight/body fat	Best goal is ideal body weight, but aim for at least a 1-kg reduction in body weight for most adults who are overweight. Expect about 1 mm Hg for every 1-kg reduction in body weight.	-5 mm Hg	-2/3 mm Hg	S4.4-2
Healthy diet	DASH dietary pattern†	Consume a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy products, with reduced content of saturated and total fat.	-11 mm Hg	-3 mm Hg	S4.4-7, S4.4-8
Reduced intake of dietary sodium	Dietary sodium	Optimal goal is <1500 mg/d, but aim for at least a 1000-mg/d reduction in most adults.	-5/6 mm Hg	-2/3 mm Hg	S4.4-10, S4.4-12
Enhanced intake of dietary potassium	Dietary potassium	Aim for 3500–5000 mg/d, preferably by consumption of a diet rich in potassium.	-4/5 mm Hg	-2 mm Hg	S4.4-14
Physical activity	Aerobic	90–150 min/wk 65%–75% heart rate reserve	-5/8 mm Hg	-2/4 mm Hg	S4.4-19, S4.4-20
	Dynamic resistance	90–150 min/wk 50%–80% 1 rep maximum 6 exercises, 3 sets/exercise, 10 repetitions/set	-4 mm Hg	-2 mm Hg	S4.4-19
	Isometric resistance	4 × 2 min (hand grip), 1 min rest between exercises, 30%–40% maximum voluntary contraction, 3 sessions/wk 8–10 wk	-5 mm Hg	-4 mm Hg	S4.4-21, S4.4-78
Moderation in alcohol intake	Alcohol consumption	In individuals who drink alcohol, reduce alcohol‡ to: Men: ≤2 drinks daily Women: ≤1 drink daily	-4 mm Hg	-3 mm Hg	S4.4-20, S4.4-24, S4.4-25

*Type, dose, and expected impact on BP in adults with a normal BP and with hypertension.
†Detailed information about the DASH diet is available via the NHLBI[S4.4-81] and Dashdiet.org.[S4.4-82]
‡In the United States, 1 "standard" drink contains roughly 14 g of pure alcohol, which is typically found in 12 oz of regular beer (usually about 5% alcohol), 5 oz of wine (usually about 12% alcohol), and 1.5 oz of distilled spirits (usually about 40% alcohol).[S4.4-80]
BP indicates blood pressure; DASH, Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension; NHLBI, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; and SBP, systolic blood pressure.
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treatment outweighs the potential harm at threshold BP ≥130/80 mm Hg.

3. Meta-analyses and systematic reviews of trials that compare more intensive BP reduction to standard BP reduction report that more intense BP lowering significantly reduces the risk of stroke, coronary events, major cardiovascular events, and cardiovascular mortality.[S4.4-33,S4.4-39,S4.4-47,S4.4-71] Achieving an additional 10–mm Hg reduction in SBP reduced CVD risk when compared with an average BP of 158/82 to 143/76 mm Hg, 144/85 to 137/81 mm Hg, and 134/79 to 125/76 mm Hg. Patients with diabetes mellitus and CKD were included in the analyses.[S4.4-39]
4. Most patients with CKD have a 10-year ASCVD risk ≥10%, requiring initiation of antihypertensive drug therapy at BP ≥130/80 mm Hg. In SPRINT, the participants with CKD who were randomized to intensive therapy (SBP target <120 mm Hg) derived the same beneficial reduction in CVD events and all-cause mortality that was seen among in their counterparts without CKD, with no difference seen in the principal renal outcome.[S4.4-34] Other RCTs[S4.4-43,S4.4-44] that evaluated the effect of differing BP goals on CKD progression in patients with CKD demonstrated no benefit for more intensive BP reduction, although post hoc follow-up analyses favored lower targets in patients with more severe proteinuria.[S4.4-72] These trials were underpowered to detect differences in CVD event rates. Several meta-analyses and systematic reviews support more intensive BP treatment to reduce cardiovascular events but do not demonstrate a reduction in the rate of progression of kidney disease.[S4.4-31,S4.4-33,S4.4-39] More intensive BP treatment may result in a modest reduction in glomerular filtration rate, which is thought to be primarily attributable to a hemodynamic effect and may be reversible. Electrolyte abnormalities are also more likely during intensive BP treatment.
5. Most adults with diabetes mellitus a 10-year ASCVD risk ≥10%, requiring initiation of antihypertensive drug therapy at BP ≥130/80 mm Hg and a treatment goal of <130/80 mm Hg.[S4.4-73] Several meta-analyses of RCTs included all trials with a difference in BP levels[S4.4-31,S4.4-71] and supported lowering BP to <130/80 mm Hg among those with diabetes mellitus. Two meta-analyses addressing target BP in adults with diabetes mellitus restricted the analysis to RCTs that randomized patients to different BP levels.[S4.4-33,S4.4-47] Target BP of 133/76 mm Hg provided significant benefit compared with that of 140/81 mm Hg for major cardiovascular events, MI, stroke, albuminuria, and retinopathy progression.[S4.4-33]

   In the ACCORD (Action to Control Cardiovascular Risk in Diabetes) trial,[S4.4-51] lowering the BP target (SBP <120 mm Hg) did not reduce the rate of the composite outcome of fatal and nonfatal major cardiovascular events and was associated with greater risk of adverse events, such as self-reported hypotension and a reduction in estimated glomerular filtration rate. Secondary analyses of the ACCORD trial demonstrated a significant outcome benefit of stroke risk reduction in the intensive BP/standard glycemic group.[S4.4-74]
6. The relationship of SBP with CVD risk is continuous across levels of SBP and similar across groups that differ in level of absolute risk.[S4.4-55] The relative risk reduction attributable to BP-lowering medication therapy is consistent across the range of absolute risk observed in trials,[S4.4-36] suggesting that relative risk reduction may be similar at lower levels of absolute risk. Indirect support is also provided by evidence from trials using BP-lowering medications to reduce the risk of developing higher levels of BP.[S4.4-75,S4.4-76] In the HOPE-3 (Heart Outcomes Prevention Evaluation-3) BP Trial, there was no evidence of short-term benefit during treatment of adults (average age 66 years) with a relatively low risk of CVD (3.8% CVD event rate during 5.6 years of follow-up). However, subgroup analysis suggested benefit in those with an average SBP >140 mm Hg (and a CVD risk of 6.5% during the 5.6 years of follow-up).[S4.4-59]
7. The treatment of patients with hypertension without elevated risk has been systematically understudied because lower-risk groups would require prolonged follow-up to have a sufficient number of clinical events to provide useful outcomes data. Although there is clinical trial evidence that both drug and nondrug therapy will interrupt the progressive course of hypertension, there is no trial evidence that this treatment decreases CVD morbidity and mortality. The clinical trial evidence is strongest for a target BP of 140/90 mm Hg in this population. However, observational studies suggest that these individuals often have a high lifetime risk and would benefit from BP control earlier in life.[S4.4-77]

4.5. Treatment of Tobacco Use

Recommendations for Treatment of Tobacco Use Referenced studies that support recommendations are summarized in Online Data Supplements 15 and 16.		
COR	**LOE**	**Recommendations**
I	A	1. All adults should be assessed at every healthcare visit for tobacco use and their tobacco use status recorded as a vital sign to facilitate tobacco cessation.[S4.5-1]
I	A	2. To achieve tobacco abstinence, all adults who use tobacco should be firmly advised to quit.[S4.5-2]

Recommendations for Treatment of Tobacco Use (Continued)		
COR	LOE	Recommendations
I	A	3. In adults who use tobacco, a combination of behavioral interventions plus pharmacotherapy is recommended to maximize quit rates.[S4.5-2,S4.5-3]
I	B-NR	4. In adults who use tobacco, tobacco abstinence is recommended to reduce ASCVD risk.[S4.5-4,S4.5-5]
IIa	B-R	5. To facilitate tobacco cessation, it is reasonable to dedicate trained staff to tobacco treatment in every healthcare system.[S4.5-1]
III: Harm	B-NR	6. All adults and adolescents should avoid secondhand smoke exposure to reduce ASCVD risk.[S4.5-6]

Synopsis

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of disease, disability, and death in the United States.[S4.5-7] Smoking and smokeless tobacco (eg, chewing tobacco) use increases the risk of all-cause mortality and is a cause of ASCVD.[S4.5-4,S4.5-5] Secondhand smoke is a cause of ASCVD and stroke,[S4.5-6] and almost one-third of CHD deaths are attributable to smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke. Even low levels of smoking increase risks of acute MI; thus, reducing the number of cigarettes per day does not totally eliminate risk.[S4.5-8] Healthy People 2020 recommends that cessation treatment in clinical care settings be expanded, with access to proven cessation treatment provided to all tobacco users.[S4.5-9] Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), often called e-cigarettes,[S4.5-10] are a new class of tobacco product that emit aerosol containing fine and ultrafine particulates, nicotine, and toxic gases that may increase risk of cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases.[S4.5-11] Arrhythmias and hypertension with e-cigarette use have also been reported.[S4.5-12] Chronic use is associated with persistent increases in oxidative stress and sympathetic stimulation in young, healthy subjects.[S4.5-13]

Recommendation-Specific Supportive Text

1. On the basis of on the US Public Health Service's Clinical Practice Guideline for Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence,[S4.5-14,S4.5-15] the USPSTF recommended (Grade A) in 2003 and reaffirmed in 2009 that clinicians ask all adults about tobacco use.[S4.5-2] Treating tobacco use status as a vital sign and recording tobacco use status in the health record at every healthcare visit not only increases the rate of tobacco treatment but also improves tobacco abstinence.[S4.5-15,S4.5-16] Office-wide screening systems (eg, chart stickers, computer prompts) that expand the vital signs to include tobacco use status (current, former, never) can facilitate tobacco cessation.[S4.5-15] Because many people who use tobacco do not report it, using multiple questions to assess tobacco use status may improve accuracy and disclosure. For example, clinicians *should ask*, "Have you smoked any tobacco product in the past 30 days, even a puff?" "Have you vaped or 'juuled' in the past 30 days, even a puff?" "Have you used any other tobacco product in the past 30 days?" If these questions are answered with "yes," the patient is considered a current smoker. Clinicians should *avoid asking* "Are you a smoker?" or "Do you smoke?" because people are less likely to report tobacco use when asked in this way.[S4.5-17]
2. Tobacco users are more likely to quit after 6 months when clinicians strongly advise adults to quit using tobacco than when clinicians give no advice or usual care.[S4.5-2] To help patients quit, it is critically important to use language that is clear and strong, yet compassionate, nonjudgmental, and personalized, to urge every tobacco user to quit.[S4.5-15] For example, "The most important thing you can do for your health is to quit tobacco use. I (we) can help." The ASCVD benefits of quitting are immediate.[S4.5-18] The best and most effective treatments are those that are acceptable to and feasible for an individual patient; clinicians should consider the patient's specific medical history and preferences and offer to provide tailored strategies that work best for the patient.[S4.5-3,S4.5-19]
3. In alignment with previous expert consensus regarding strategies for tobacco cessation,[S4.5-19] Table 8 summarizes recommended behavioral interventions and pharmacotherapy for tobacco treatment. There are 7 FDA-approved cessation medications, including 5 forms of nicotine replacement. *Note that the black box warnings about neuropsychiatric events have been removed by the FDA*.[S4.5-20,4.5-21] The net benefit of FDA-approved tobacco-cessation pharmacotherapy and behavioral interventions (even just 3 minutes of practical advice), alone or combined, in nonpregnant adults (≥18 years of age) who smoke is substantial. The net benefit of behavioral interventions for tobacco cessation on perinatal outcomes and smoking abstinence in pregnant women who smoke is substantial. However, the evidence on pharmacotherapy for tobacco cessation in pregnant women is insufficient; the balance of benefits and harms cannot be determined. Among hospitalized adults who use tobacco, intensive counseling with continued supportive follow-up contacts for at least one month after discharge is recommended.[S4.5-22]

   ENDS are not recommended as a tobacco treatment method. The evidence is unclear about

Table 8. Highlights of Recommended Behavioral and Pharmacotherapy Tobacco Treatment Modalities for Prescribers*

Timing of Behavioral Interventions†			
<3 min of tobacco status assessment with cessation counseling at each clinic encounter	>3-10 min of tobacco status assessment with cessation counseling at each clinic encounter		>10 min of tobacco status assessment with cessation counseling at each clinic encounter
Treatment	Dosing‡		Precautions
NRT*			
Patch	21 mg, 14 mg, or 7 mg	Starting dose: 21 mg for ≥10 CPD; 14 mg for <10 CPD	Local irritation possible; avoid with skin disorders; may remove for sleep if needed
Gum	2 mg or 4 mg	Starting dose: 4 mg if first tobacco use is ≤30 min after waking; 2 mg if first tobacco use is >30 min after waking; maximum of 20 lozenges or 24 pieces of gum/d. Chew and park gum*	Hiccups/dyspepsia possible; avoid food or beverages 15 min before and after use
Lozenge	2 mg or 4 mg		
Nasal spray	10 mg/mL	Starting dose: 1-2 doses/h (1 dose=1 spray each nostril); maximum of 40 doses/d	Local irritation possible; avoid with nasal or reactive airway disorders
Oral inhaler	10-mg cartridge	Starting dose: Puff for 20 min/cartridge every 1-2 h; maximum 16 cartridges/d	Cough possible; avoid with reactive airway disorders
Other§			
Bupropion (Zyban [GlaxoSmithKline], Wellbutrin SR [GlaxoSmithKline])	150 mg SR	150 mg once daily (am) for 3 d; then 150 mg twice daily; may use in combination with NRT[S4.5-21]	Avoid with history/risk of seizures, eating disorders, MAO inhibitors, or CYP 2D6 inhibitor
Varenicline (Chantix [Pfizer])	0.5 mg or 1 mg	0.5 mg once daily (am) for 3 d; then 0.5 mg twice daily for 4 d; then 1 mg twice daily (use start pack followed by continuation pack) for 3-6 mo	Nausea common; take with food. Renal dosing required. Very limited drug interactions; near-exclusive renal clearance.

*CPD can guide dosing. 1 CPD is ≈1-2 mg of nicotine. *Note: Use caution with all NRT products for patients with recent (≤2 wk) MI, serious arrhythmia, or angina; patients who are pregnant or breastfeeding; and adolescents*.

†Timing of assessment relates to ICD-10 coding.

‡Dose and duration can be titrated on the basis of response.[S4.5-21]

§The FDA has issued a removal of black box warnings about neuropsychiatric events.[S4.5-20,S4.5-21]

am indicates morning; CPD, cigarettes smoked per day; FDA, US Food and Drug Administration; ICD-10, *International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision*; MAO, monoamine oxidase; NRT, nicotine replacement; and SR, sustained release.

whether ENDS are useful or effective for tobacco treatment, and they may be potentially harmful. The evidence on the use of ENDS as a smoking-cessation tool in adults (including pregnant women) and adolescents is insufficient[S4.5-23] or limited.[S4.5-24] The USPSTF recommends that clinicians direct patients who smoke tobacco to other cessation interventions with established effectiveness and safety.

4. Cigarette smoking remains a strong, independent risk factor for ASCVD events and premature death.[S4.5-4] Even among older adults, tobacco cessation is beneficial in reducing excess risk.[S4.5-5] The risk of heart failure and death for most former smokers is similar to that of never smokers after >15 years of tobacco cessation.[S4.5-25] In the National Health Interview Survey, smoking was strongly associated with ASCVD in young people after adjustment for multiple risk factors,[S4.5-26] which is why abstinence from an early age is recommended.
5. Tobacco use dependence is a chronic disease that requires highly skilled chronic disease management. It is a reasonable expectation that every health system or practice should dedicate trained staff to tobacco treatment. Healthcare professionals who receive training in tobacco treatment are more likely to ask about tobacco use, offer advice to quit, provide behavioral interventions, follow up with individuals, and increase the number of tobacco users who quit.[S4.5-1] Participants who earn a certificate in tobacco treatment practice demonstrate a nationally recognized level of training and skill acquisition in treating tobacco dependence.[S4.5-27] A Tobacco Treatment Specialist is a professional who possesses the skills, knowledge, and training to provide effective, evidence-based interventions for tobacco dependence across a range of intensities.[S4.5-28] A list of accredited Tobacco Treatment Specialist programs is available here: http://ctttp.org/accredited-programs.[S4.5-29]

6. Secondhand smoke exposure is known to cause CVD[S4.5-6] and stroke[S4.5-16] in nonsmokers, and it can lead to immediate adverse events.[S4.5-30] There is no safe lower limit of exposure to secondhand smoke.[S4.5-31] Even brief exposure to secondhand smoke can trigger an MI.[S4.5-30,S4.5-32] Even though exposure to secondhand smoke has steadily decreased over time, certain subgroups remain exposed to secondhand smoke in homes, vehicles, public places, and workplaces. It is estimated that 41 000 preventable deaths per year occur in adult nonsmokers as a result of exposure to secondhand smoke.[S4.5-33] The US Department of Housing and Urban Development prohibited the use of combustible tobacco products in all public housing living units, indoor common areas, and public housing agency administrative office buildings, extending to all outdoor areas up to 25 feet from public housing buildings.[S4.5-34] Therefore, the present writing committee recommends that clinicians advise patients to take precautions against exposure to secondhand smoke and aerosol from all tobacco products, such as by instituting smoking restrictions (including ENDS) inside all homes and vehicles and within 25 feet from all entryways, windows, and building vents.

4.6. Aspirin Use

Recommendations for Aspirin Use
Referenced studies that support recommendations are summarized in Online Data Supplements 17 and 18.

COR	LOE	Recommendations
IIb	A	1. Low-dose aspirin (75-100 mg orally daily) might be considered for the primary prevention of ASCVD among select adults 40 to 70 years of age who are at higher ASCVD risk but not at increased bleeding risk.[S4.6-1–S4.6-8]
III: Harm	B-R	2. Low-dose aspirin (75-100 mg orally daily) should not be administered on a routine basis for the primary prevention of ASCVD among adults >70 years of age.[S4.6-9]
III: Harm	C-LD	3. Low-dose aspirin (75-100 mg orally daily) should not be administered for the primary prevention of ASCVD among adults of any age who are at increased risk of bleeding.[S4.6-10]

Synopsis

For decades, aspirin has been widely administered for ASCVD prevention. By irreversibly inhibiting platelet function, aspirin reduces risk of atherothrombosis but also increases risk of bleeding, particularly in the gastrointestinal tract.[S4.6-11] Aspirin is well established for secondary prevention of ASCVD[S4.6-12] and is widely recommended for this indication.[S4.6-13] However, in primary prevention, aspirin use is more controversial. Because persons without prior ASCVD are inherently less likely to have future ASCVD events than are those with a prior history, it is more challenging for clinicians and patients to balance benefits and harms of prophylactic aspirin for primary prevention. This uncertainty is reflected in international guidelines, where, for example, aspirin is not recommended in European guidelines for primary ASCVD prevention[S4.6-13] but is recommended in prior US guidelines for selected primary prevention for adults who have elevated risk of ASCVD based on traditional risk factors.[S4.6-14,S4.6-15] Adding to this controversy are more recently conducted primary-prevention trials that, in contrast to older trials,[S4.6-12] have shown less overall benefit of prophylactic aspirin alongside coadministration of contemporary ASCVD preventive treatments, such as evidence-based hypertension and cholesterol therapies.[S4.6-5–S4.6-9,S4.6-16,S4.6-17]

Recommendation-Specific Supportive Text

1. To balance the benefits and risks, prior US guidelines have recommended prophylactic aspirin only in the setting of elevated ASCVD risk (eg, as calculated by risk estimators like the PCE or based on the presence of specific ASCVD risk factors).[S4.6-14,S4.6-18] Meta-regression analyses of historical trials show that observed ASCVD risk tracks reasonably well with baseline-estimated ASCVD risk.[S4.6-19] In contrast, observed bleeding risk on aspirin is less well correlated with baseline-estimated ASCVD risk.[S4.6-19] (A nonexhaustive list of scenarios associated with increased risk of bleeding includes: a history of previous gastrointestinal bleeding or peptic ulcer disease or bleeding from other sites, age >70 years, thrombocytopenia, coagulopathy, CKD, and concurrent use of other medications that increase bleeding risk, such as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, steroids, direct oral anticoagulants, and warfarin.) In this context, post hoc study of older trials suggests that the benefit–risk ratio for prophylactic aspirin generally becomes more favorable at >10% estimated 10-year ASCVD risk.[S4.6-15,S4.6-19] However, the relative benefits of aspirin, specifically in preventing nonfatal MI and perhaps stroke (with a trend to lower mortality) have been less evident in more recent trials.[S4.6-9,S4.6-16,S4.6-17,S4.6-20] Similarly, in these recent trials, the estimated ASCVD risk has generally exceeded the actual risk observed during follow-up.[S4.6-17] These recent data are the rationale for the lower COR for prophylactic aspirin in the present guideline (Class IIb) and the removal of a specific PCE risk threshold as an inclusion criterion for aspirin consideration. These changes reflect the need to instead consider the totality of available

evidence for ASCVD risk [inclusive, where appropriate, of risk-enhancing factors, such as strong family history of premature MI, inability to achieve lipid or BP or glucose targets, or significant elevation in coronary artery calcium score[S4.6-21]] and to also tailor decisions about prophylactic aspirin to patient and clinician preferences. Depending on risk factors present, a given patient and his/her clinician may decide that lowering the risk of MI (which has potentially serious long-term consequences not captured by clinical trials of 5 to 10 years' duration) is worth a slight excess risk of serious bleeding. Recent trials show that absolute risk for ASCVD events typically exceeds that of bleeding and, although the gap of relative benefit to relative harm for aspirin has narrowed, the number needed to treat to prevent an ASCVD event remains lower than the number needed to harm to cause bleeding. Others may feel that the benefit of prophylactic aspirin is comparable to the risk and may instead choose to focus on optimal control of other modifiable ASCVD risk factors. Therefore, a Class IIb recommendation remains more suitable than a Class III recommendation for adults 40 to 70 years of age. Given the narrow overall balance between benefits and harms of prophylactic aspirin, there is limited justification to use aspirin at doses >100 mg daily for primary prevention. Indeed, meta-analyses suggest that the ASCVD risk benefit for low-dose aspirin is equivalent to that for high-dose aspirin, but the bleeding risk is higher with high-dose aspirin. Recent observational studies motivate future research on the personalization of prophylactic aspirin dose according to patient-specific factors (eg, weight),[S4.6-22] though we note that, regarding weight specifically, there was no evidence low-dose aspirin was any more effective in low-weight individuals than in high-weight individuals in the more recently published ASCEND (A Study of Cardiovascular Events iN Diabetes) trial,[S4.6-16] trial. Most importantly, recent clinical trials also teach us that low-dose prophylactic aspirin may be best justified among persons at high ASCVD risk who cannot achieve optimal control of other ASCVD risk factors.[S4.6-23]

2. Prophylactic aspirin in primary-prevention adults >70 years of age is potentially harmful and, given the higher risk of bleeding in this age group, difficult to justify for routine use.[S4.6-9] In addition, for adults <40 years of age, there is insufficient evidence to judge the risk–benefit ratio of routine aspirin for the primary prevention of ASCVD. However, one caveat is that, although routine use is not recommended in these settings, there is also insufficient evidence to comment on whether there may be select circumstances in which physicians might discuss prophylactic aspirin with adults <40 years of age or >70 years of age in the context of other known ASCVD risk factors (eg, strong family history of premature MI, inability to achieve lipid or BP or glucose targets, or significant elevation in coronary artery calcium score). As inferred from the first recommendation, there is also no justification for the routine administration of low-dose aspirin for the primary prevention of ASCVD among adults at low estimated ASCVD risk. For example, in the recent ARRIVE (A Randomized Trial of Induction Versus Expectant Management) trial, observed average 10-year ASCVD risk was <10%, and the overall benefits of prophylactic aspirin by intention-to-treat were negligible.[S4.6-17]
3. The accumulated trial and observational data to date support avoiding prophylactic aspirin in the setting of known risk factors for increased bleeding outcomes.[S4.6-10] A nonexhaustive list of conditions associated with increased bleeding risk includes: a history of previous gastrointestinal bleeding or peptic ulcer disease or bleeding at other sites, age >70 years, thrombocytopenia, coagulopathy, CKD, and concurrent use of other medications that increase bleeding risk, such as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, steroids, direct oral anticoagulants, and warfarin.[S4.6-10]

5. COST AND VALUE CONSIDERATIONS

The growing need to consider value stems directly from the goal of achieving the best possible health outcomes with finite healthcare resources in the primary prevention of CVD.[S5-1] *Value* in health care can be defined as the incremental health benefits of a therapy or procedure relative to its incremental net long-term costs. The consideration of cost and value in the guideline development process supports key goals, including: 1) enhancing overall value in the delivery of cardiovascular care and 2) involving healthcare professionals in the challenging care decisions that must be made to increase value in the US healthcare system.[S5-2]

The integration of value assessments into our national guidelines involves inherent methodological challenges, including: 1) variability in costs across different healthcare settings; 2) variability in costs and benefits across different patient subgroups; 3) variability over time; 4) variability in who bears the burden of the health outcome (ie, typically the individual patient) versus who bears the burden of the healthcare cost (eg, often spread beyond the individual to third-party payers, taxpayers); and 5) an inadequate literature base on which to render a sound, evidence-based assessment of certain specific therapies.[S5-1,S5-2]

There are additional challenges specific to the prevention realm. As described in the 2011 AHA policy statement, "Value of Primordial and Primary Prevention in CVD":[S5-1]

> *"Assessing the value of prevention in apparently healthy patients is generally more difficult than evaluating therapy for established disease because the time horizon to the clinical manifestation of disease is generally long—many decades in the young. Thus, it is difficult, perhaps impossible, to assess long-term effectiveness in terms of survival or quality-adjusted life-years (QALYs) or associated costs because of increasing uncertainty about outcome the further one tries to look into the future."*

Furthermore, the principle of *discounting*, which places relative emphasis on current costs and benefits while deemphasizing downstream costs and benefits, creates disadvantages for prevention because costs often accrue in the present while the benefit may only be fully realized long into the future. These methodological challenges notwithstanding, prior AHA statements have highlighted the public policies, community efforts, and pharmacological interventions that are likely to be cost-effective and, at times, cost-saving prevention tactics compared with common benchmarks. For example, robust evidence suggests that both antihypertensive therapy[S5-3–S5-6] and statin therapy,[S5-7–S5-9] particularly with low-cost generic drug formulations, are high-value interventions across a wide spectrum of risk and age strata.

The incorporation of the value category into clinical practice guidelines is one of several considerations in medical decision-making and resource allocation. Clinicians, researchers, and policymakers must continue to place cost-effective analyses in the proper context, extracting key value determinations while acknowledging the challenges in fully characterizing and incorporating the downstream benefits of a given therapeutic prevention tactic. Further research and methodological advances are needed to comprehensively characterize the full spectrum of benefits produced by the prevention approach, thereby rendering cost-effectiveness assessments more consequential to clinical practice.

6. CONCLUSION

Most ASCVD events are avoidable through primordial prevention (ie, the prevention of risk factor development) and control of traditional cardiovascular risk factors. Tobacco avoidance is critically important for ASCVD prevention, and all adults should strive to engage in regular brisk physical activity most days of the week and adhere to a healthy dietary pattern to help lower future ASCVD risk. A diet high in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains is best. Fish, legumes, and poultry are the preferred sources of protein. Minimizing the consumption of *trans* fats, added sugars (including sugar-sweetened beverages), red meats, sodium, and saturated fats is also important. Clinicians should work in partnership with patients to assess their readiness for sustained lifestyle improvements, identify potential barriers to change, and encourage them to try to achieve measurable goals and continue to monitor their progress.[S6-1] Finally, social determinants of ASCVD risk—and their impact on the patient's ability to prevent or treat risk factors—must be taken into account. Clinicians need to consider patients' health literacy and education levels and assess patients' motivation to improve their lifestyle habits.

The goal of the clinician is to match the intensity of preventive efforts with an individual's absolute risk of a future ASCVD event and with the individual's willingness and capacity to implement preventive strategies. Risk estimation is imperfect and based on group averages that are then applied to individual patients. The clinician must balance an understanding of a patient's estimated ASCVD risk with potential benefits and adverse risk from pharmacological therapy in the context of a risk discussion. To determine the appropriateness of pharmacological therapy after quantitative risk estimation in cases that are unclear, risk-enhancing factors or selective use of a coronary artery calcium measurement can inform decision-making for cholesterol-lowering or antihypertensive medication use in intermediate-risk individuals.

This primary-prevention guideline strives to provide clinicians with the information they need to help their patients reduce their risk of ASCVD and encourage them to make healthier lifestyle changes when needed.

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ARTICLE INFORMATION

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3. LIFESTYLE FACTORS AFFECTING CARDIOVASCULAR RISK

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5. COST AND VALUE CONSIDERATIONS

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6. CONCLUSION

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APPENDIX 1. SEARCH CRITERIA

1. Patnode CD, Evans CV, Senger CA, et al. Behavioral counseling to promote a healthful diet and physical activity for cardiovascular disease prevention in adults without known cardiovascular disease risk factors: updated evidence report and systematic review for the US Preventive Services Task Force. JAMA. 2017;318:175–93.
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APPENDIX 1. SEARCH CRITERIA

The rapid review conducted by the Evidence-based Practice Center to complete this literature search, in the limited timeframe provided, built on existing systematic reviews conducted on behalf of the USPSTF.

Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) Terms	Key Words
Nutrition and Diet	
Search since the 2017 review[1]	
exp Diet/	diet*
exp Diet Therapy/	cardiovascular
Healthy Diet	coronary
Primary Prevention/	heart
	myocardial infarction
	MI
	CVD
	CHD
	cerebrovascular
	stroke
	microvascular
	mortality
	prevent*
Obesity and Weight Loss	
Search since the 2018 review[2]	
exp Obesity/	obes*
exp Weight Loss	overweight
Primary Prevention/	weight
	cardiovascular
	coronary
	heart
	myocardial infarction
	MI
	CVD
	CHD
	cerebrovascular
	stroke
	microvascular
	mortality
	prevent*
Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus	
Search since the 2015 review[3]	
exp Diabetes Mellitus, Type 2/	impaired fasting glucose
Prediabetic State/	impaired glucose tolerance
Glucose Intolerance/	Ifg
Primary Prevention/	Igt
	prediabetes*
	type 2 diabet*
	DM

(*Continued*)

Appendix 1. Continued

Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) Terms	Key Words
	cardiovascular
	coronary
	heart
	myocardial infarction
	MI
	CVD
	CHD
	cerebrovascular
	stroke
	microvascular
	mortality
	prevent*
Tobacco Use	
Search since the 2015 review[4]	
Smoking/	smoking
exp "Tobacco Use Cessation"/	cigarette*
"Tobacco Use Disorder"/	tobacco
Electronic Cigarettes/	nicotine
Primary Prevention/	vape
	vaping
	e-cigarette
	electronic cigarette
	electronic nicotine delivery system*
	ENDS
	cardiovascular
	coronary
	heart
	myocardial infarction
	MI
	CVD
	CHD
	cerebrovascular
	stroke
	microvascular
	mortality
	prevent*
Aspirin Use	
Search since the 2016 review[5]	
Aspirin	aspirin
exp Cerebrovascular Disorders/	acetylsalicylic acid
exp Cardiovascular Diseases/	clopidogrel
Primary Prevention/	cardiovascular
	coronary
	heart
	myocardial infarction

(*Continued*)

Appendix 1. Continued

Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) Terms	Key Words
Primary Prevention/ Continued	MI
	CVD
	CHD
	cerebrovascular
	stroke
	microvascular
	mortality
	prevent*
Social Determinants of Health	
Search limited to English. No date restrictions (conducted 7/11/2018) Similar articles searches were also conducted where potentially highly relevant papers were found	
NONE SPECIFIED, BUT DUE TO AUTOMATIC TERM MAPPING IN PUBMED, SOME MeSH TERMS MAY HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED	Social determinants of health
	Equity
	Social status
	Social deprivation
	Neighborhood
	Neighborhood conditions
	Uninsured
	Housing
	Immigration
	Adverse childhood events
	Social gradient
	Educational status
	Inequalities
	Sexuality
	Atherosclerosis
	cardiovascular
Team Based Care	
Search limited to English, 1/1/2010-10/14/2018 (though earlier articles may have been identified through related articles search) Related articles searches were also conducted where potentially highly relevant papers were found	
NONE SPECIFIED, BUT DUE TO AUTOMATIC TERM MAPPING IN PUBMED, SOME MeSH TERMS MAY HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED	team
	Team care
	Collaborative care
	Multidisciplinary
	"team based"
	"team approach"
	prevention
	Primary prevention
	Cardiovascular disease,
	Cholesterol
	Aspirin
	Smoking
	Obesity
	Heart disease

(*Continued*)

Appendix 1. Continued

Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) Terms	Key Words
	Atherosclerosis
	stroke
Shared Decision Making	
Search limited to English, 1/1/2010-10/24/2018 (though earlier articles may have been identified through related articles search) Related articles searches were also conducted where potentially highly relevant papers were found	
NONE SPECIFIED, BUT DUE TO AUTOMATIC TERM MAPPING IN PUBMED, SOME MeSH TERMS MAY HAVE BEEN AUTOMATICALLY EMPLOYED	Shared decision making
	Prevention
	Cardiovascular
	Atherosclerosis
	Stroke
	Heart
	Hypertension
	Lipids
	Cholesterol
	diabetes
Exercise & Physical Activity	
Search limits: Not ACP Journal Club OR Summaries for patients OR Editorial OR case-report OR letter OR letter OR abstract OR newspaper article OR comment OR baseline characteristics OR study design OR methodology Terms to identify clinical trials/SRs/Mas: Filters: Meta-Analysis, Systematic Reviews, Clinical Trial, Controlled Clinical Trial, Randomized Controlled Trial, From 2011/01/01 to 2018/05/25, Humans, English, Adult: 19+ years Terms to identify observational studies: 2011/01/01 to 2018/12/31, Humans, English, Epidemiologic Studies, Case-Control Studies, Cohort Studies, Cross-Sectional Studies, epidemiolog* AND stud*, case control, cohort stud*, cross sectional, cohort analys*, follow up stud*, longitudinal, retrospective, prospective, observational AND stud* Filters: Adult: 19+ years	
Waist Circumference	
Search limited to adult populations, 01/01/2010-10/3/18, English language	
Acute Coronary Syndrome	Acute coronary syndromes
Angina Unstable	Unstable angina?, "Angina Unstable"
Myocardial infarction	Myocardial infarctions
Shock cardiogenic	"shock cardiogenic"
Myocardial Stunning	"myocardial stunning"
No Reflow Phenomenon	
Heart Arrest	
St elevation myocardial infarction	STEMI
Non-st elevated myocardial infarction	NSTEMI
	"death/sudden cardiac"
Stroke	
Brain Infarction	
Brain Stem Infarctions	
Lateral Meduallary Syndrome	

(*Continued*)

Appendix 1. Continued

Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) Terms	Key Words
Cerebral Infarction	
	Myocardial ischemia
	"Dementia Multi infarct"
	"infarction anterior cerebral artery"
	"infarction middle cerebral artery"
	"infarction posterior cerebral artery"
Myocardial revascularization	
Coronary artery bypass	
Internal mammary coronary artery anastomosis	
Angioplasty	"angioplasty transluminal percutaneous coronary"
Heart failure	
Hospitalization	Hospitalization? OR rehospitalization?
	"atherectomy coronary"
	Coronary stent
	CABG
	"bypass grafts"
	"Carotid"
	pathology
	physiopathology
	Non-coronary revascularization procedure
	Carotid revascularization?
	Lower extremity revascularization?
	Percutaneous transluminal angioplast?
	Stent placement?
	Abdominal aortic aneurysm repair?
	AAA repair?
	complications
	Event? OR outcome? OR episode?
	Risk score
	Coronary risk modification
Cardiovascular diseases	Cardiovascular OR CVD
Cardiovascular disease	
Coronary disease	coronary
Coronary artery disease	
Myocardial infarction	
Heart failure	CHF OR CHD
Cerebrovascular disorders	
	"dyspnea paroxysmal"
	"edema cardiac"
Physical fitness	
Motor activity	
Exercise tolerance	
Metabolic equivalent	Metabolic equivalent

(*Continued*)

Appendix 1. Continued

Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) Terms	Key Words
Exercise test	Graded exercise test OR gxt
Life style or lifestyle	
Exercise	
Training	
Walking	
	Vo2
	Maximal met
	Mets
	Physical activity
	Maximal metabolic?
Acute Coronary Syndrome	Acute coronary syndromes
Angina Unstable	Unstable angina?, "Angina Unstable"
Myocardial infarction	Myocardial infarctions
Shock cardiogenic	"shock cardiogenic"
Myocardial Stunning	"myocardial stunning"
No Reflow Phenomenon	
Heart Arrest	
St elevation myocardial infarction	STEMI
Non-st elevated myocardial infarction	NSTEMI
	"death/sudden cardiac"
Stroke	
Brain Infarction	
Brain Stem Infarctions	
Lateral Meduallary Syndrome	
Cerebral Infarction	
	Myocardial ischemia
	"Dementia Multi infarct"
	"infarction anterior cerebral artery"
	"infarction middle cerebral artery"
	"infarction posterior cerebral artery"
Myocardial revascularization	
Coronary artery bypass	
Internal mammary coronary artery anastomosis	
Angioplasty	"angioplasty transluminal percutaneous coronary"
Heart failure	
Hospitalization	Hospitalization? OR rehospitalization?
	"atherectomy coronary"
	Coronary stent
	CABG
	"bypass grafts"
	"Carotid"
	pathology

(*Continued*)

Appendix 1. Continued

Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) Terms	Key Words
	physiopathology
	Non-coronary revascularization procedure
	Carotid revascularization?
	Lower extremity revascularization?
	Percutaneous transluminal angioplast?
	Stent placement?
	Abdominal aortic aneurysm repair?
	AAA repair?
	complications
	Event? OR outcome? OR episode?
	Risk score
	Coronary risk modification
Cardiovascular diseases	Cardiovascular OR CVD
Cardiovascular disease	
Coronary disease	coronary
Coronary artery disease	
Myocardial infarction	
Heart failure	CHF OR CHD
Cerebrovascular disorders	
	"dyspnea paroxysmal"
	"edema cardiac"

Because of automatic term mapping in PubMed, some MeSH terms may have been used even when not explicitly specified.

Appendix 2. Author Relationships With Industry and Other Entities (Relevant)—2019 ACC/AHA Guideline on the Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease

Committee Member	Employment	Consultant	Speakers Bureau	Ownership/ Partnership/ Principal	Personal Research	Institutional, Organizational, or Other Financial Benefit	Expert Witness
Donna K. Arnett, Co-Chair	University of Kentucky College of Public Health—Dean and Professor of Epidemiology	None	None	None	None	None	None
Roger S. Blumenthal, Co-Chair	Johns Hopkins University—Professor of Medicine and Director, Ciccarone Center for the Prevention of Heart Disease	None	None	None	None	None	None
Michelle A. Albert	UCSF School of Medicine—Professor of Medicine and Director, UCSF NURTURE Center	None	None	None	None	None	None
Andrew B. Buroker	Faegre Baker Daniels LLP, Partner	None	None	None	None	None	None
Zachary D. Goldberger	University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health—Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Cardiology	None	None	None	None	None	None
Ellen J. Hahn	University of Kentucky College of Nursing—Professor & Director, BREATHE, Deputy Director, UK-CARES & Leader, and Community Engagement Core; Marcia A. Dake Professor of Nursing	None	None	None	None	None	None
Cheryl Dennison Himmelfarb	Johns Hopkins School of Nursing—Professor; Associate Dean Research, Office for Science and Innovation; and Deputy Director, Johns Hopkins Institute for Clinical and Translational Research	None	None	None	None	None	None
Amit Khera	UT Southwestern School of Medicine—Professor of Internal Medicine and Director, Preventive Cardiology Program	None	None	None	None	None	None
Donald Lloyd-Jones	Northwestern University—Eileen M. Foell Professor; Senior Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Research; Chair, Department of Preventive Medicine; and Director, Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute	None	None	None	None	None	None
J. William McEvoy	National University of Ireland, Galway Campus—Professor of Preventive Cardiology; National Institute for Preventive Cardiology, Galway—Medical and Research Director; and University Hospital Galway, Ireland—Consultant Cardiologist.	None	None	None	None	None	None
Erin D. Michos	Johns Hopkins School of Medicine—Associate Professor of Medicine and Associate Director of Preventive Cardiology, Ciccarone Center for the Prevention of Heart Disease; Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health—Associate Professor of Epidemiology	None	None	None	None	None	None
Michael D. Miedema	Minneapolis Heart Institute—Research Cardiologist	None	None	None	None	None	None
Daniel Muñoz	Vanderbilt University Medical Center—Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Cardiology, Medical Director for Quality, Vanderbilt Heart & Vascular Institute, and Associate Medical Director, Cardiovascular ICU	None	None	None	None	None	None
Sidney C. Smith Jr	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill—Professor of Medicine, Division of Cardiology	None	None	None	None	None	None
Salim S. Virani	Baylor College of Medicine—Professor, Section of Cardiovascular Research and Director for Research, Cardiology Fellowship Training Program; Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center—Staff Cardiologist and Investigator, Health Policy, Quality & Informatics Program, Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety	None	None	None	None	None	None
Kim A. Williams Sr	Rush Medical College—James B. Herrick Professor and Chief, Division of Cardiology, Department of Internal Medicine	None	None	None	None	None	None

(*Continued*)

Appendix 2. Continued

Committee Member	Employment	Consultant	Speakers Bureau	Ownership/ Partnership/ Principal	Personal Research	Institutional, Organizational, or Other Financial Benefit	Expert Witness
Joseph Yeboah	Wake Forest Baptist Health—Associate Professor, Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular	None	None	None	None	None	None
Boback Ziaeian	University of California at Los Angeles/US Department of Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, David Geffen School of Medicine—Assistant Professor, Division of Cardiology	None	None	None	None	None	None

This table represents the relationships of committee members with industry and other entities that were determined to be relevant to this document. These relationships were reviewed and updated in conjunction with all meetings and/or conference calls of the writing committee during the document development process. The table does not necessarily reflect relationships with industry at the time of publication. A person is deemed to have a significant interest in a business if the interest represents ownership of ≥5% of the voting stock or share of the business entity, or ownership of ≥$5000 of the fair market value of the business entity; or if funds received by the person from the business entity exceed 5% of the person's gross income for the previous year. Relationships that exist with no financial benefit are also included for the purpose of transparency. Relationships in this table are modest unless otherwise noted.

According to the ACC/AHA, a person has a relevant relationship IF: a) the relationship or interest relates to the same or similar subject matter, intellectual property or asset, topic, or issue addressed in the document; or b) the company/entity (with whom the relationship exists) makes a drug, drug class, or device addressed in the document or makes a competing drug or device addressed in the document; or c) the person or a member of the person's household, has a reasonable potential for financial, professional or other personal gain or loss as a result of the issues/content addressed in the document.

ACC indicates American College of Cardiology; AHA, American Heart Association; ICU, Intensive Care Unit; LLP, Limited Liability Partnership; UCSF, University of California, San Francisco; UT, University of Texas; and VA, Veterans Affairs.

Appendix 3. Reviewer Relationships With Industry and Other Entities (Comprehensive)—2019 ACC/AHA Guideline on the Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease

Reviewer	Representation	Employment	Consultant	Speakers Bureau	Ownership/ Partnership/ Principal	Personal Research	Institutional, Organizational, or Other Financial Benefit	Expert Witness	Salary
Amy Peterson	Official Reviewer—AHA	Hospital Affiliations: American Family Children's Hospital; UnityPoint Health—Meriter; UW School of Medicine and Public Health Department of Pediatrics	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Kim K. Birtcher	Official Reviewer—ACC/AHA Task Force on Clinical Practice Guidelines Lead Reviewer	University of Houston, College of Pharmacy, Clinical Professor	• Jones & Bartlett Learning	None	None	None	• Accreditation Council for Clinical Lipidology (Other category)†	None	None
Sanjay Gandhi	Official Reviewer—ACC	Metro Health Medical Center Cleveland, Associate Professor, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine	None	None	None	• Cleveland Heart Lab • Juventas	• Athersys (Data Safety Monitoring Board) • Tendyne (Other category)	None	None
Andrea Price	Official Reviewer—ACC Science and Quality Committee	Quality Databases at Indiana University Health, Director	None	None	None	None	• ACC*	None	None
Jennifer E. Sanner Beauchamp	Content Reviewer—AHA	University of Texas Health Science Center, Cizik School of Nursing, Associate Professor	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Glenn N. Levine	Content Reviewer—ACC/AHA Task Force on Clinical Practice Guidelines	Professor of Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas	None	None	None	None	None	• Out of hospital cardiopulmonary arrest 2017 (Defendant)* • Out of hospital death 2018 (Defendant)*	None

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Appendix 3. Continued

Reviewer	Representation	Employment	Consultant	Speakers Bureau	Ownership/ Partnership/ Principal	Personal Research	Institutional, Organizational, or Other Financial Benefit	Expert Witness	Salary
Patrick T. O'Gara	Content Reviewer—ACC/AHA Task Force on Clinical Practice Guidelines	Director of Strategic Planning for the Cardiovascular Division at Brigham and Women's Hospital, the Watkins Family Distinguished Chair in Cardiology and Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School	None	None	None	None	• Edwards Scientific (Other)† • Medtronic (Other) • NIH (Other)*	None	None
Joshua A. Beckman	Content Reviewer—ACC/AHA Task Force on Clinical Practice Guidelines	Director, Vascular Medicine; Professor of Medicine at Vanderbilt University	• Aralez Pharmaceuticals* • AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals* • Janssen Scientific Affairs* • ER Squibb & Sons • Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals* • Merck • Sanofi	• AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals	None	• Bristol-Myers Squibb*	• Bayer (Data Safety Monitoring Board)* • Novartis Corporation (Data Safety Monitoring Board) • Vascular Interventional Advances (Officer, Director, Trustee, or other Fiduciary Role)* • EMX† • JanaCare†	None	None
Anita Deswal	Content Reviewer—ACC/AHA Task Force on Clinical Practice Guidelines	Chief, Cardiology, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center & Baylor College of Medicine, Professor, Baylor College of Medicine	None	None	None	• NIH*	• ACC/AHA (Other) • Novartis Corporation (Other)† • AHA Get With The Guidelines Steering Committee (Other)† • Heart Failure Society of America (Other)† • Immediate Past Chair and Member, AHA Committee on Heart Failure and Transplantation (Other)† • NIH (Other)†	None	None
Federico Gentile	Content Reviewer—ACC/AHA Task Force on Clinical Practice Guidelines	Centro Medico Diagnostico—Director, Cardiovascular Disease	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
José A. Joglar	Content Reviewer—ACC/AHA Task Force on Clinical Practice Guidelines	Program Director, Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology Fellowship Program; Professor, UT Southwestern Medical Center	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Duminda N. Wijeysundera	Content Reviewer—ACC/AHA Task Force on Clinical Practice Guidelines	Associate Professor Anesthesia, University of Toronto	None	None	None	• Canadian Institutes of Health Research* • Ministry of Health and Longterm Care of Ontario (Canada)* • NIH*	• PCORI (Data Safety Monitoring Board)†	None	• Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Ottawa, Ontario, Canada)*

(*Continued*)

Appendix 3. Continued

Reviewer	Representation	Employment	Consultant	Speakers Bureau	Ownership/ Partnership/ Principal	Personal Research	Institutional, Organizational, or Other Financial Benefit	Expert Witness	Salary
Eileen M. Handberg	Content Reviewer—ACC	Research Professor of Medicine; Director, Clinical Trials Program; Program Director, Florida CARES, UF Health	• Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	None	None	• Aastrom Biosciences* • Amorcyte, Inc* • Biocardia, Inc* • Brigham and Women's Hospital* • Capricor* • Cytori Therapeutics, Inc.* • Department of Defense* • Direct Flow Medical* • Duke Clinical Research Institute* • East Carolina University* • Everyfit Inc* • MEDTRONIC* • Merck & Co., Inc.* • Mesoblast Inc* • NIH* • PCORI* • Sanofi Aventis*	• Amgen (Other) • AstraZeneca (Other) • Boehringer Ingelheim (Other) • Daiichi Sankyo (Other) • Gilead Sciences, Inc. (Other) • Ionis (Other) • Relypsa (Other)	None	None
Prem Soman	Content Reviewer—ACC	Associate Professor of Medicine (Cardiology), Director, Nuclear Cardiology, UPMC	• Alnylam Pharma	None	• American Society of Nuclear Cardiology*	• Astellas Pharma US*	None	None	None
Eric Stecker	Content Reviewer—ACC	Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine School of Medicine, OHSU	None	None	• Hygeia / Desi MD*	• American Heart Association* • Medical Research Foundation of Oregon*	None	None	None
Pamela Morris	Content Reviewer—ACC	Professor, Medical University of South Carolina	• Amgen Inc. • Sanofi • Regeneron	None	None	None	None	None	None
Andrew Freeman	Content Reviewer—ACC	Director, Clinical Cardiology and Operations; Co-Director, Nuclear Cardiology, National Jewish Health	None	• Boehringer Ingelheim*	None	None	None	None	None
Carl J. Lavie	Content Reviewer—ACC	Medical Director, Cardiac Rehabilitation and Prevention, Ochsner Clinic Foundation	None	• Amgen* • ER Squibb & Sons • Pfizer* • Aralez Pharmaceuticals • Amarin Pharma • Sanofi Aventis*	None	None	None	None	None
James Stein	Content Reviewer—ACC	Director, UW Health Preventive Cardiology Program, Robert Turell Professor in Cardiovascular Research, UW School of Medicine and Public Health	• Eli Lilly and Company (DSMB)	None	None	None	• Up To Date (Other) • Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (Other)	None	None
Heather Johnson	Content Reviewer—ACC	Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health	None	None	None	None	• Pfizer	None	None
Nanette Wenger	Content Reviewer—ACC	Professor of Medicine, Division of Cardiology, Emory University School of Medicine	• Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc* • Amgen • AstraZeneca • Gilead Sciences • Merck	None	None	• Gilead Sciences* • NHLBI* • Pfizer* • Society for Women's Health Research*	None	None	None

(*Continued*)

Appendix 3. Continued

Reviewer	Representation	Employment	Consultant	Speakers Bureau	Ownership/ Partnership/ Principal	Personal Research	Institutional, Organizational, or Other Financial Benefit	Expert Witness	Salary
Michael Blaha	Content Reviewer—AHA	Director of Clinical Research, Ciccarone Center for the Prevention of Heart Disease Associate Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins Medicine	• Ferring Pharmaceuticals • Regeneron Pharmaceuticals • Sanofi-Aventis* • Amgen • Akcea • MedImmune • Novartis • Novo Nordisk • Siemens* • ACC	None	None	• Aetna† • Amgen† • AHA† • FDA† • NIH†	None	None	None
Laurence Sperling	Content Reviewer—ACC/AHA	Founder and Director of Preventive Cardiology at the Emory Clinic, Co-Director of the Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Program at Emory, Professor of Medicine (Cardiology) at the Emory University School of Medicine	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Seth Martin	Content Reviewer—ACC/AHA	Director, Advanced Lipid Disorders Program of the Ciccarone Center; Associate Professor of Medicine at Johns Hopkins Medicine	• Amgen • Akcea Therapeutics • Quest Diagnostics • Sanofi-Regeneron • Esperion • Novo Nordisk	None	None	• Aetna Foundation* • Apple* • Google* • iHealth* • Maryland Innovation Initiative* • AHA*	• Corrie Health (Officer, Director, Trustee, or other Fiduciary Role)† • Co-inventor on pending patent filed by Johns Hopkins University for method of LDL-C estimation (Other)†	None	None
Samia Mora	Content Reviewer—ACC/AHA	Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medicine School Director, Center for Lipid Metabolomics, Brigham and Women's Hospital	• Pri-Med* • Pfizer • Quest Diagnostics	None	None	None	• C3 Conference (Other) • European Atherosclerosis Society (Other) • FEBS Congress (Other) • Oregon Health & Science University (Other) • Vascular Biology Working Group Meeting (Other) • Atherotech Diagnostics* • Pfizer* • Quest Diagnostics* • NHLBI* • NIDDK*	None	None
Clyde Yancy	Content Reviewer—ACC/AHA	Chief of Cardiology in the Department of Medicine, Northwestern Medicine	None	None	None	None	• *JAMA Cardiology* (Other)‡	None	None
Quinn Pack	AACVPR	Assistant Professor of Medicine at University of Massachusetts Medical School	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Frank Sacks	ASN	Professor of Cardiovascular Disease Prevention, Harvard School of Public Health	• Amgen • Pfizer* • AstraZeneca*	None	None	None	None	None	None
Salvatore Lacagnina	ACPM	System Medical Director of Wellness & Employee Health, Lee Health	None	None	None	None	None	None	None

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Appendix 3. Continued

Reviewer	Representation	Employment	Consultant	Speakers Bureau	Ownership/ Partnership/ Principal	Personal Research	Institutional, Organizational, or Other Financial Benefit	Expert Witness	Salary
Ron Blankstein	ASPC	Co-Director, Cardiovascular Imaging Training Program, Associate Physician, Preventive Cardiology, Director, Cardiac Computed Tomography, Brigham Health, Associate Professor in Medicine and Radiology, Harvard Medical School	• Ekos Corporation • Amgen	None	None	• Amgen† • Astellas† • Sanofi-Aventis†	• American Society of Nuclear Cardiology (Officer, Director, Trustee, or other Fiduciary Role)† • Intersocietal Accreditation Commission for Computed Tomography (Officer, Director, Trustee, or other Fiduciary Role)† • Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography (Officer, Director, Trustee, or other Fiduciary Role)†	None	None
Jo-Ann Eastwood	PCNA	Associate Professor, UCLA School of Nursing	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Stuart Haines	Content Reviewer—ACC/AHA	Professor of Pharmacy Practice, University of Mississippi	None	None	• Rx Instructional Systems*	None	• American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (Officer, Director, Trustee, or other Fiduciary Role)†	None	None
Michael Rich	AGS	Professor of Medicine, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis	None	None	None	None	None	None	None

This table represents all relationships of reviewers with industry and other entities that were reported at the time of peer review, including those not deemed to be relevant to this document, at the time this document was under review. The table does not necessarily reflect relationships with industry at the time of publication. A person is deemed to have a significant interest in a business if the interest represents ownership of ≥5% of the voting stock or share of the business entity, or ownership of ≥$5000 of the fair market value of the business entity; or if funds received by the person from the business entity exceed 5% of the person's gross income for the previous year. Relationships that exist with no financial benefit are also included for the purpose of transparency. Relationships in this table are modest unless otherwise noted. Names are listed in alphabetical order within each category of review. Please refer to http://www.acc.org/guidelines/about-guidelines-and-clinical-documents/relationships-with-industry-policy for definitions of disclosure categories or additional information about the ACC/AHA Disclosure Policy for Writing Committees.

*Significant relationship.

†No financial benefit.

AACVPR indicates American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation; ACC, American College of Cardiology; ACPM, American College of Preventive Medicine; AGS, American Geriatrics Society; AHA, American Heart Association; ASN, American Society for Nutrition; American Society of Preventive Cardiology; DSMB, Data and Safety Monitoring Board; FDA, US Food and Drug Administration; FEBS, Federation of European Biochemical Societies; *JAMA, Journal of the American Medical Association*; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; NHLBI, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; NIDDK, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases; NIH, National Institutes of Health; OHSU, Oregon Health & Science University; PCNA, Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association; PCORI, Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute; UCLA, University of California, Los Angeles; UF, University of Florida; UPMC, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center; UT, University of Texas; UW, University of Wisconsin; and VA, Veterans Affairs.