



## Advancing Hypertension Care

Hypertension, a strong predictor for cardiovascular complications such as heart attack, stroke, and heart failure, is a critical public health issue. In response to this challenge, ACPM funds projects across five diverse clinical settings to develop practice models that advance the standard of preventive care for hypertension in African American Men.

## Henry Ford Health System

### Embedded Pharmacist and Blood Pressure Recheck Program

**Project Description:**

The HFHS program utilizes two main strategies: an Embedded Pharmacist Program and a Registered Nurse (RN) Blood Pressure Recheck Program.



The Embedded Pharmacist Program is intended to increase timeliness of case review and allow for rapid titration of medication by embedding pharmacists in clinic offices two to three days per week.

The RN Blood Pressure Recheck Program is conducted by RNs with extensive training and authority to make medication changes according to an algorithm and a specified, approved protocol.

Pharmacists identify patients who have been diagnosed with hypertension and conduct outreach to invite them to an in-person visit with either a pharmacist or nurse.

Patient education is provided in visits with pharmacists or RNs and both pharmacists and RNs regularly follow-up with patients to ensure proper care. HFHS is developing tools to study how to customize materials to meet educational needs for the African American patient population.

**Social Determinant of Health (SDoH) Addressed:**

HFHS has chosen to address the social determinants and social needs of its patient group in medication costs and transportation.

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**Organization:**

Henry Ford Medical Group, one of the nation’s largest group practices, has more than 1,300 physicians and researchers in more than 40 specialties. Founded in 1915 by auto pioneer



Henry Ford, HFHS is a comprehensive, integrated health care system that provides health insurance and health care delivery, including acute, specialty, primary, and preventive care services backed by research and education.

The total patient population in 2019 was 98,706 spread across three clinics in the Detroit metro area. Patients identifying as ‘Mostly White’ comprise the majority of the population (57%). Black patients comprise 33% of the population. In 2016, there were 18,228 African American men aged 35-64 in Henry Ford’s patient population, 18,215 of whom have had blood pressure measurements in that year. 5,656 had high blood pressure.

In the area served by HFHS in 2016, the average household income was \$37,887, significantly lower than that of the surrounding county (\$57,369). Detroit also had a higher unemployment rate than the neighboring counties (11.5% versus 5%) in that same year.

**Materials, Technology, Resources and Partnerships:**

- Embedded Pharmacist Program
- RN Blood Pressure Recheck Program
- Patient education booklet
- Patient Education patient videos
- Medication Adherence Tool which includes an assessment of Social Needs
- EHR tracking for SDOH, clinical markers, and program participation
- Active member of the Detroit Hypertension Task Force

**Payor Mix:**

- Medicaid 17%
- Medicare 42%
- Commercial 41%

