

**The Lipid Clinic  
Henry Ford Health System  
2001 Acclaim Award Honoree**

In 1995, an internal drug study of lipid-lowering therapy uncovered significant gaps in patient monitoring for laboratory tests and appropriate drug dosing which prompted the development of the Lipid Clinic. The clinic features individual patient management by a clinical pharmacist or registered nurse using a lipid management tracking program. Workflow technology is integrated into the electronic medical record and is used to identify patients, to assess quality of care and to prompt for patient follow-up.

**Goal**

To demonstrate measurable improvement in achievement of LDL-C control in CAD patients on lipid-lowering therapy.

**Intervention**

Clinical pharmacists or registered nurses work under delegated authority to manage patients with hyperlipidemia, optimize drug therapy, provide lifestyle counseling, order lab tests, assure patient compliance, and consult with physicians on abnormal results.

**Highlights**

- NCEP guidelines are used to stratify patients based on risk factors and set LDL-C goals
- Standard dosing algorithm and staff competencies were adopted and approved by the internal medicine, cardiology, and endocrinology departments in order to ensure consistent care for all Lipid Clinic patients
- Computer based automated patient tracking system is integrated within the electronic medical record with the following features: identifies patients for enrollment or follow-up; documents patient encounters, lab values, medication dose and schedule, dose adjustments; generates patient reminders and quality reports.
- Quarterly Quality Assurance reports % of patients achieving LDL-C goal by current enrollees is a key performance indicator.

**Results**

**Quality Assurance Measures - % of Patients at LDL-C Goal**

**Pilot**

Patients	#	% at Goal	% at Goal	# with no follow-up labs
		Baseline	1 year	
<b>All</b>	205	52.7%	83.8%	8
<b>Existing CAD Goal : LDL-C &lt;= 100 mg/dL</b>	101	46.5%	80.2%	5
<b>High Risk Goal: LDL-C &lt;= 130 mg/dL</b>	65	56.9%	84.4%	1
<b>Low Risk Goal: LDL-C &lt;= 160 mg/dL</b>	39	61.5%	91.9%	2

### Implementation of Lipid Management Tracking Program

<b>Patients</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>% at Goal baseline*</b>	<b>% at Goal 6 months</b>	<b>% at Goal 1 year</b>
Existing CAD	444	57.2%	64.8%	72.7%

\* Includes the 101 CAD patients enrolled in original pilot program.

*Henry Ford Health Systems, located in Detroit, Michigan, is a 800-member multispecialty group, practicing in an integrated delivery network that serves a market population of approximately four million. Nearly 20% of patient visits are by persons 65 and over. The payer mix includes 50% managed care, 33% Medicare, and 17% fee-for-service or Medicaid.*