

**Improving Cholesterol Management in Patients with Coronary Artery Disease**  
**Aurora Health Care**  
**2002 Acclaim Award Honoree**

In 1998, cholesterol management in patients with CAD was selected as one of the organization's quality improvement initiatives. The project was designed to not only improve clinical effectiveness but to make primary care physicians active participants in helping patients lower their LDL cholesterol level to  $\leq 100$  mg/dL.

**Goal**

To improve cholesterol management in patients with known coronary artery disease

**Intervention**

Organization-wide effort to improve cholesterol management featuring bimonthly physician feedback reports, pocket-sized guidelines, and patient and provider education

**Highlights**

- Quality improvement projects are nominated by each geographic region and then selected by the Care Management/Quality Council after careful review and a criteria-based scoring and ranking process.
- The group conducted a thorough review of more than 800 medical records of patients with known CAD to develop baseline data.
- Over 250 provider reports are sent out bimonthly and include listings of patients with elevated LDLs as well as those with no LDL test in the past 12 months; the reports also allow physicians to compare their own performance with that of their clinic, region, and organization.
- Project budget included physician team member honorariums, database acquisition, consultation services for computer interface support, computer software, and printing of patient education materials.

**Results**

- 95 percent of Aurora's PCPs are active participants in the program
- 73 percent of CAD patients have an annual LDL test
- The mean LDL for these patients is 104/mg/dL

*Aurora Health Care is comprised of four geographic regions located primarily in Eastern Wisconsin. Aurora Medical Group consists of more than 600 physicians at 78 locations and serves about one million of the area's three million residents.*