SELECTED CLINICAL GUIDELINE
In accordance with Highmark’s commitment to quality care, the Highmark Clinical Advisory Committee, consisting of network Primary Care Physicians and Specialists, has adopted the 2014 Evidence Based Guideline for the Management of High Blood Pressure in Adults: Report from the Panel Members Appointed to the Eighth Joint National Committee (JNC 8). The full guideline is available on the following World Wide Web site:


GUIDELINE CONSIDERATIONS
- As with any insurance, members are eligible for services only as long as they are active members of the plan and the services are covered benefits of their group or direct pay contract.
- Some flexibility in specific cases will require deviations from guideline recommendations.
- All providers are responsible for individualizing recommendations to the specific clinical characteristics of each patient

RESOURCES AND REFERENCES
- The National Quality Forum endorses the following Effectiveness of Care clinical measure:
  - Controlling High Blood Pressure
  - Annual Monitoring for Patients on Persistent Medications
- References
MEDICATION CONSIDERATIONS

- Physicians are encouraged to reference the Highmark Drug Formulary when selecting prescription drug therapy for eligible members. Members with a Highmark closed formulary benefit design do not have coverage for non-formulary drugs.
- If appropriate, consider prescribing medications included in the formulary to avoid non-covered expenses for your patient. You can find all formulary information online in the Pharmacy/Formulary Information link.
- Physicians may request to have a non-formulary drug covered for an individual patient. Evidence to support the ineffectiveness of formulary alternatives for the particular patient’s condition or a reasonable expectation of adverse reactions from the use of formulary products must be submitted for a request to be considered. Instructions and the request form for this process are located on the Provider Resource Center under “Provider Forms.”