

relates to the data element Date of birth version 4
relates to the data element Cardiovascular medication - current
version 1

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: National Diabetes Outcomes Quality Review Initiative
(NDOQRIN) data dictionary.

Source Organisation: National Diabetes Data Working Group

Comments: Hypertension is probably the most important public health problem in developed countries. It is common, asymptomatic, readily detectable, usually easily treatable, and often leads to lethal complications if left untreated.

Elevated blood pressure (Hypertension) is a recognised risk for microvascular and macro vascular complications of diabetes (coronary, cerebral and peripheral).

Hypertension is elevated arterial blood pressure above the normal range (130 to 139/85 to 89 mm Hg) and values above these are defined as hypertension. Lower levels of target blood pressure should be aimed for in specific groups, e.g. in diabetics aim for blood pressure less than 135/80 mm Hg.

Many diabetics fail to control high blood pressure. Among all the diabetics with high blood pressure, 29% were unaware that they had high blood pressure and only slightly more than half were receiving hypertensive medications as treatment.

Numbers of studies have shown that good management of blood pressure is at least as important as good control of blood glucose and the reduction of cholesterol in preventing the complications of diabetes.

Antihypertensives - Australian Medicines Handbook: February, 2001. Tight blood control in diabetes usually requires combination therapy as stated by (Australian Diabetes society) Therapeutic Guidelines Limited (05.04.2002).

People taking antihypertensives are also encouraged to make healthy lifestyle changes, such as quit smoking, lose weight and have regular physical activity.

The level of blood pressure should generally be established on at least two to four occasions prior to initiating antihypertensive

