NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE indicator guidance

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# Indicator NM173

The percentage of patients with a current diagnosis of heart failure due to left ventricular systolic dysfunction, who are currently treated with a beta-blocker licensed for heart failure.

# Indicator type

General practice indicator suitable for use in the QOF.

# Introduction

Heart failure is a complex clinical syndrome of symptoms and signs that suggest the efficiency of the heart as a pump is impaired. It is caused by structural or functional abnormalities of the heart. [QOF data for 2017/18](https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/quality-and-outcomes-framework-achievement-prevalence-and-exceptions-data/2017-18) shows around 486,000 people in England are currently on a general practice heart failure register. Improvements in care have increased survival for people with ischaemic heart disease, and treatments for heart failure have become more effective. But the overall prevalence of heart failure is rising because of population ageing and increasing rates of obesity.

# Rationale

This indicator measures the percentage of people with heart failure due to left ventricular systolic dysfunction who are currently treated with beta-blockers.

The aim of treatment with beta-blockers is to reduce morbidity, hospitalisation and mortality in people with heart failure due to left ventricular systolic dysfunction. The NICE guideline for [chronic heart failure](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng106) recommends beta-blockers as treatment for all people with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction (HFREF), including older adults and people with defined comorbidities such as peripheral vascular disease, erectile dysfunction, diabetes mellitus, interstitial pulmonary disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease without reversibility.

The indicator refers to left ventricular systolic dysfunction (LVSD) rather than HFREF because it is the term historically used in GP practice. However, it is recommended for the ejection fraction to be recorded and for the ACE inhibitor or ARB to be prescribed to patients with HFREF below 40% in line with the guideline.

# Source guidance

[Chronic heart failure in adults](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng106/chapter/Recommendations) (2018) NICE guideline NG106, recommendations 1.4.1 and 1.4.7.

# Specification

Numerator: The number of patients in the denominator who are currently treated with a beta-blocker.

Denominator: The number of patients with a current diagnosis heart failure due to left ventricular systolic dysfunction or heart failure with reduced ejection fraction.

Calculation: (Numerator/denominator) \* 100.

Exclusions: None.

Minimum population: The indicator would be appropriate to assess performance at individual general practice level.

# Further information

This is NICE indicator guidance, which is part of the [NICE menu of indicators](https://www.nice.org.uk/Standards-and-Indicators/index). This document does not represent formal NICE guidance.