



Improving Cardiac Health and Reducing Disparities in Care

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly one in three deaths in the U.S. is caused by heart disease or stroke each year. Many of these deaths could have been prevented by controlling risk factors like high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

The **New England QIN-QIO** offers free evidence-based resources as part of our **Improving Cardiac Health and Reducing Disparities in Care** initiative. Our efforts align with the national Million Hearts® initiative, whose goal is to prevent one million heart attacks and strokes by the year 2017. We collaborate with home health agencies, physician offices, clinics, patients and other health care facilities to:

- Improve cardiovascular clinical outcomes
- Reduce disparities in health care
- Optimize use of electronic health records and other health information technologies
- Improve patient self-management of cardiovascular disease
- Improve the health literacy of patients and families

These goals focus on improving cardiac health to benefit all Medicare beneficiaries, including racial and ethnic minority populations, beneficiaries with both Medicare and Medicaid, beneficiaries who live in rural areas and the community healthcare providers who care for them.

The initiative convenes health care providers from across the care continuum, including:

- Home health agencies
- Practitioner-owned offices & clinics
- Practitioner-operated offices & clinics
- Medicare beneficiaries & families
- Local stakeholders and partners collaborating to improve cardiovascular and disparities in care

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