
These recommendations are intended to provide a reasonable and practical approach to care for specialists, physicians and allied health professionals. They are subject to change as scientific knowledge and technology advance and practice patterns evolve, and are not intended to be a substitute for clinical judgement. Adherence to these recommendations will not necessarily produce successful outcomes in every case.

For information about the GRADE approach for rating the strength of recommendations and quality of evidence, visit www.ccs.ca.

Please visit www.ccs.ca for more information and additional resources.

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### Summary of 2016 Guideline Changes and Highlights

#### What’s new?

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#### Key Messages

- LDL-cholesterol levels are directly linked to the development of atherosclerosis and its reduction is directly linked to the reduction in cardiovascular disease events.
- Health behaviour modification remains a cornerstone of risk reduction.

LDL-C – low density lipoprotein cholesterol; CKD – chronic kidney disease; DASH – Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension; HDP - Hypertensive disease of pregnancy.
**Who to Screen**

### WHO TO SCREEN

**Men ≥40 years of age; women ≥40 years of age (or postmenopausal)**

Consider earlier in ethnic groups at increased risk such as South Asian or First Nations individuals

**All patients with the following conditions regardless of age:**

- Clinical evidence of atherosclerosis
- Abdominal aortic aneurysm
- Diabetes mellitus
- Arterial hypertension
- Current cigarette smoking
- Stigmata of dyslipidemia (arcus cornealis xanthelasma or xanthoma)
- Family history of premature CVD*
- Family history of dyslipidemia
- Chronic kidney disease**
- Obesity (BMI ≥30 kg/m²)
- Inflammatory disease
- HIV infection
- Erectile dysfunction
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Hypertensive diseases of pregnancy

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*Men <55 and women <65 yrs of age in first degree relative

**CKD: eGFR <60 ml/min/1.73 m² or ACR >3 mg/mmol for at least 3 months duration
**How to Screen**

**HOW TO SCREEN**

**For all:**
- History and physical examination
- Standard lipid panel (TC, LDL-C, HDL-C, TG)
- Non-HDL-C (will be calculated from profile)
- Glucose
- eGFR

**Optional:**
- ApoB
- Urine albumin:creatinine ratio
  (if eGFR <60 mL/min/1.73m², hypertension or diabetes)

**LIPID TESTING CAN GENERALLY BE DONE NON-FASTING**

**RECOMMENDATION**

- We recommend non-fasting lipid and lipoprotein testing can be performed in adults in whom screening is indicated as part of a comprehensive risk assessment to reduce CVD events (Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence).

- We suggest that for individuals with a history of triglyceride levels >4.5 mmol/L that lipid and lipoprotein levels be measured fasting (Conditional Recommendation, Low Quality Evidence).

**Practical Tip** - Compared to fasting lipid values, there will be minimal change with non-HDL-C, a slight decrease in LDL-C and small increase in triglyceride concentrations when most individuals do not fast.
Coronary Artery Calcium (CAC) Measurement - Recommendations

- We suggest that CAC screening using computed tomography imaging might be appropriate for asymptomatic, middle-aged adults (FRS 10-20%) for whom treatment decisions are uncertain (Conditional Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence).
- We suggest that CAC screening using computed tomography imaging might not be undertaken for a) high risk individuals b) patients receiving statin treatment or c) most asymptomatic, low-risk adults (Strong Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence).
- We suggest that CAC screening might be considered for a subset of low-risk middle-aged individuals with a family history of premature CHD (men <55 years; women <65 years) (Conditional Recommendation, Low Quality Evidence).
- We suggest that in patients who warrant risk factor management on the basis of usual criteria, CAC scoring not be undertaken. Moreover, CAC scoring (seeking a result with a value of zero) should not be used as a rationale for withholding otherwise indicated, preventive therapies (Strong recommendation, Low Quality Evidence).

Lipoprotein (a) Measurement - Recommendation

- We suggest that Lp(a) might aid risk assessment in subjects at intermediate Framingham risk or with a family history of premature coronary artery disease (Conditional Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence).

Values and preferences - Lp(a) is a marker of CVD risk. Particular attention should be given to individuals with Lp(a) levels above 30mg/dL for whom CVD risk is increased by approximately twofold. Although no randomized clinical trials are available to support basing treatment decisions solely on an elevated LP(a) level, identification of high levels of Lp(a) might be particularly useful for mutual decision-making in intermediate-risk subjects. Moreover, in younger patients who have a very strong family history of premature CVD suspected to be related to atherogenic dyslipidemia but who by virtue of young age, do not meet usual risk criteria for treatment, detection of high Lp(a) might help inform mutual decision making regarding treatment. Lp(a) is not considered a treatment target and repeat measures are not indicated.
RECOMMENDATIONS

- We recommend that a cardiovascular risk assessment be completed every 5 years for men and women age 40 to 75 using the modified FRS or CLEM to guide therapy to reduce major cv events. A risk assessment may also be completed whenever a patient’s expected risk status changes (Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence).

- We recommend sharing the results of the risk assessment with the patient to support shared decision making and improve the likelihood that patients will reach lipid targets (Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence).

**Practical Tip** - While there is good evidence to support the use of statins in secondary prevention in patients over the age of 75 years for some outcomes, a mortality benefit has not been demonstrated. In addition, the evidence for statin use in primary prevention is lacking in this population, mainly because they have not been extensively studied. For robust elderly patients believed to be at higher risk, a discussion about the importance of statin therapy in overall management should be undertaken as these patients are often at high risk because a CVD event has important consequences for morbidity.

† Can calculate Cardiovascular Age with the Cardiovascular Life Expectancy Model at: www.chiprehab.com
For mobile device applications from the CCS, please visit: www.ccs.ca
FRS calculator: myhealthcheckup.com
### Risk Stratification

#### Statin-indicated Conditions

- Clinical atherosclerosis
- Abdominal aortic aneurysm
- Most diabetes including:
  - Age ≥40y
  - Age ≥30y & 15y duration (type 1 DM)
  - Microvascular disease
- Chronic kidney disease

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LDL-C ≥5mmol/L (genetic dyslipidemia)</th>
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#### Primary Prevention Conditions

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Intermediate Risk</th>
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<tr>
<td>FRS 10-19% and</td>
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<tr>
<td>LDL-C ≥3.5 mmol/L or</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-HDL-C ≥4.3 mmol/L or</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apo B ≥1.2 g/L or</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men ≥50 and women ≥60 with one additional risk factor: low HDL-C, impaired fasting glucose, high waist circumference, smoker, hypertension</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>High Risk</th>
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<tr>
<td>FRS ≥20% or alternative method</td>
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#### No Pharmacotherapy

<table>
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<th>Low Risk</th>
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<td>FRS &lt;10%</td>
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† Statins are first line therapy but add-on or alternative therapy may be required as per the algorithm

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**Risk Assessment**
We recommend that non-HDL-C and apo B should continue to be considered alternate targets to LDL-C to evaluate risk in adults (Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence).

Values and preferences - As clinicians are most familiar with LDL-C we continue to recommend its use as the primary target, but recognize the advantages of non-HDL-C or apo B.

Non-HDL-C = Total Cholesterol - HDL-C

Atherogenic
Apo B-containing Lipoproteins

LDL-C: Calculated from standard Lipid Profile
Apo B: Measured separately
When to Consider Pharmacological Treatment in Risk Management

### Statin-indicated Conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLINICAL ATHEROSCLEROSIS</th>
<th>ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSM</th>
<th>DIABETES MELLITUS</th>
<th>CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE</th>
<th>LDL-C ≥5.0 MMOL/L</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Myocardial infarction, acute coronary syndromes</td>
<td>Abdominal aorta &gt;3.0 cm or Previous aneurism surgery</td>
<td>≥40 years of age or &gt;15 years duration and age ≥30 years of age or Microvascular complications</td>
<td>&gt;3 months duration and ACR &gt;3.0 mg/mmol or eGFR &lt;60 ml/min/1.73m² ≥ 50 years of age</td>
<td>LDL-C ≥5.0 mmol/L or Document familial hypercholesterolemia Excluded 2nd causes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stable angina, documented coronary disease by angiography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stroke, TIA, documented carotid disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peripheral artery disease, claudication and/or ABI &lt;0.9</td>
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### RECOMMENDATION

**Statin-indicated conditions:**
- We recommend management that includes statin therapy in high risk conditions including clinical atherosclerosis, abdominal aortic aneurysm, most diabetes mellitus, chronic kidney disease (age >50 years) and those with LDL-C ≥5.0 mmol/L to decrease the risk of CVD events and mortality *(Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence).*
When to Consider Pharmacological Treatment in Risk Management

**Primary Prevention Conditions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intermediate Risk</th>
<th>High Risk</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRS 10-19% and LDL-C ≥3.5 mmol/L or</td>
<td>FRS ≥20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-HDL-C ≥4.3 mmol/L or</td>
<td>or alternative method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apo B ≥1.2 g/L or</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Men ≥50 and women ≥60 with one additional</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>risk factor: low HDL-C, impaired fasting</td>
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<tr>
<td>glucose, high waist circumference, smoker,</td>
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<tr>
<td>hypertension</td>
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**Primary prevention:**

a) We recommend management that does not include statin therapy for individuals at low risk (modified FRS <10 %) to decrease the risk of CVD events (Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence).

b) We recommend management that includes statin therapy for individuals at high risk (modified FRS ≥20%) to decrease the risk of CVD events (Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence).

c) We recommend management that includes statin therapy for individuals at intermediate risk (modified FRS 10-19%) with LDL-C ≥3.5 mmol/L to decrease the risk of CVD events. Statin therapy should also be considered for intermediate risk persons with LDL-C <3.5 mmol/L but with apo B ≥1.2 g/L or non-HDL-C ≥4.3 mmol/L or in men ≥50 and women ≥60 years of age with ≥1 CV risk factor (Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence).

**Values and preferences** - This recommendation applies to individuals with an LDL-C ≥1.8 mmol/L. Any decision regarding pharmacological therapy for CV risk reduction in IR persons needs to include a thorough discussion of risks, benefits, and cost of treatment, alternative nonpharmacological methods for CV risk reduction and each individual’s preference. The proportional risk reduction associated with statin therapy in RCTs in (IR) persons is of similar magnitude to that attained in high-risk persons. Moreover, irreversible severe side effects are very rare and availability of generic statins results in low cost of therapy. However, the absolute risk reduction is lower. Statin therapy may be considered in persons with FRS of 5%-9% with LDL-C ≥3.5 mmol/L or other CV risk factors as the proportional benefit from statin therapy will be similar in this group as well.
### RECOMMENDATIONS

- **We recommend treatment with a statin or statin/ezetimibe combination to reduce CVD events in adults ≥50 years with chronic kidney disease not treated with dialysis or a kidney transplant** *(Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence).*

**Values and preferences** - If the preference is to engage in early prevention and long-term risk reduction, in subjects <50 years the absolute risk of events is lower but studies suggest that statins will result in a relative risk reduction similar to those ≥50 years. The statin/ezetimibe combination recommendation is based on the SHARP study which utilized 20 mg of simvastatin and 10 mg of ezetimibe.

- **We suggest that lipid-lowering therapy not be initiated in adults with dialysis-dependent CKD** *(Conditional Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence).*

**Values and preferences** - In younger individuals who may become eligible for kidney transplantation or with a longer life expectancy, statin or statin/ezetimibe combination therapy may be desirable although high-quality studies have not been done in this population.

- **We suggest that lipid-lowering therapy be continued in adults already receiving it at the time of dialysis initiation** *(Conditional Recommendation, Low Quality Evidence).*

**Values and preferences** - This recommendation reflects that fact that a substantial number of patients in SHARP transitioned to dialysis during the study and there was no heterogeneity of results for the population as a whole. The evidence is of low quality overall and there is substantial debate about best practice in this situation.

- **We suggest the use of statin therapy in adults with kidney transplantation** *(Conditional Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence).*
## Pharmacological Treatment Indications and Targets

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<th>Consider Initiating Pharmacotherapy if:</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>NNT</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Prevention</td>
<td><strong>High</strong> (FRS $\geq 20%$)</td>
<td>LDL-C $&lt;2.0$ mmol/L or $&gt;50%$ ↓</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Intermediate</strong> (FRS 10-19%)</td>
<td>Or</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>LDLC $\geq 3.5$ mmol/L or Non-HDL-C $\geq 4.3$ mmol/L or Apo B $\geq 1.2$ g/L or Men $\geq 50$ and women $\geq 60$ yrs and one additional CVD RF</td>
<td>Apo B $&lt;0.8$ g/L</td>
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<td>Or</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statin Indicated Conditions**</td>
<td>Clinical atherosclerosis*</td>
<td>non-HDL-C $&lt;2.6$ mmol/L</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Abdominal aortic aneurysm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diabetes mellitus $\geq 40$ yrs 15 yrs duration for age $\geq 30$ yrs (DM1)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Microvascular disease</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chronic kidney disease (age $\geq 50$ y) eGFR $&lt;60$ mL/min/1.73 m² or ACR $&gt;3$ mg/mmol</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LDLC $\geq 5.0$ mmol/L</td>
<td>$&gt;50%$ ↓ in LDL-C</td>
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NNT: number needed to treat to prevent one CVD event for 5 years of treatment per 1 mmol/L reduction in LDL-C. NNT of <50 are generally regarded as desirable by physicians with some patients wishing to see NNT <30 to deem an intervention as acceptable.

FRS – modified Framingham Risk Score; ACR – albumin:creatinine ratio;
* consider LDL-C $<1.8$ mmol/L for subjects with ACS within last 3 months
** statins indicated as initial therapy
### RECOMMENDATIONS

- We recommend a treat-to-target approach in the management of dyslipidemia to mitigate CVD risk (*Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence*).

#### Statin Indicated Conditions:

a) We recommend a target LDL-C consistently <2.0 mmol/L or >50% reduction of LDL-C for individuals for whom treatment is initiated to decrease the risk of CVD events and mortality (*Strong Recommendation, Moderate-Quality Evidence*). Alternative target variables are apo B <0.8 g/L or non-HDL-C <2.6 mmol/L (*Strong Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence*).

b) We recommend a >50% reduction of LDL-C for patients with LDL-C >5.0 mmol/L in individuals for whom treatment is initiated to decrease the risk of CVD events and mortality (*Strong Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence*).

#### Values and preferences - Based on the IMPROVE-IT trial, for those with a recent acute coronary syndrome and established coronary disease consideration should be given to more aggressive targets (LDL-C <1.8 mmol/L or >50% reduction). This might require the combination of ezetimibe (or other non-statin medications) with maximally tolerated statin. This would value more aggressive treatment in higher risk individuals.

#### Primary prevention conditions warranting therapy (All risk groups):

- We recommend a target LDL-C consistently <2.0 mmol/L or >50% reduction of LDL-C in individuals for whom treatment is initiated to decrease the risk of CVD events (*Strong Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence*). Alternative target variables are apo B <0.8 g/L or non-HDL-C <2.6 mmol/L (*Strong Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence*).

#### Values and preferences - According to evidence from randomized trials in primary prevention, achieving these levels will reduce CVD events. The mortality reduction is statistically significant but modest (NNT =250). Treatment in primary prevention values morbidity reduction preferentially.
RECOMMENDATIONS

• We recommend that despite concerns about a variety of possible adverse effects, all purported statin-associated symptoms should be evaluated systematically, incorporating observation during cessation, re-initiation (same or different statin, same or lower potency, same or decreased frequency of dosing) to identify a tolerated, statin-based therapy for chronic use (*Strong Recommendation, Low Quality Evidence*).

• We recommend that vitamins, minerals, or supplements for symptoms of myalgia perceived to be statin-associated not be used (*Strong Recommendation, Low Quality Evidence*).

**Values and preferences** - Always confirm that there is an indication for statin use which, if present, would suggest that benefits, clearly communicated to the patient, far outweigh the potential occurrence of any of the many side effects purported to be associated with statin use. Assess patient features that might limit dosage or preclude use of statins (e.g. potential drug-drug interactions) and always emphasize dietary, weight and exercise interventions to facilitate achievement of lipid goals and other benefits of comprehensive, CV prevention.
### Recommendations

- We recommend ezetimibe as second-line therapy to lower LDL-C levels in patients with clinical CVD if targets are not reached with maximally tolerated statin therapy *(Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence).*

- We recommend that niacin not be added to statin therapy for CVD prevention in patients who have achieved LDL-C targets *(Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence).*

**Values and preferences** - It remains unclear whether niacin offers CV benefits in other patient groups, such as those with LDL-C above target or those with low HDL-C or high triglyceride levels.

- We recommend that fibrates not be combined with statin therapy for CVD event prevention in patients who have achieved LDL-C targets *(Strong recommendation, High Quality Evidence).*

**Values and preferences** - In sub-group analysis, patients with elevated triglycerides and low HDL-C may benefit from fibrate therapy.
Non-Statin Therapy

RECOMMENDATIONS

• We suggest that bile acid sequestrants be considered for LDL-C lowering in high risk patients whose levels remain above target despite statin treatment +/- ezetimibe therapy (Conditional Recommendation, Low Quality Evidence).

• We suggest the use of PCSK9 inhibitors (evolocumab, alirocumab) to lower LDL-C for patients with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia whose LDL-C level remains above target despite maximally tolerated statin therapy (Conditional Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence). We suggest that evolocumab be combined with background therapy in patients with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia and continued if LDL-C lowering is documented (Conditional Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence).

• We suggest that PCSK9 inhibitors be considered to lower LDL-C for patients with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease in those not at LDL-C goal despite maximally tolerated statin doses +/- ezetimibe therapy (Conditional Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence).

Values and preferences - Definitive outcome trials with PCSK9 inhibitors are underway but have not yet been completed. However, phase 3 efficacy trials show consistent reduction in LDL-C and reassuring trends towards reduced CV events, even though they were not powered for such. Given the very high lifetime risk faced by patients with familial hypercholesterolemia or ASCVD, clinicians should balance the anticipated benefits of robust LDL-C lowering with PCSK9 inhibitors against the lack of definitive outcomes data.

• We suggest lomitapide and mipomersen* may be considered exclusively in patients with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (Conditional Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence).

*not approved in Canada
Healthy Eating

- We recommend that all individuals are offered advice about healthy eating and activity and adopt the Mediterranean dietary pattern to decrease their CVD risk (Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence).

**Values and preferences** - Adherence is one of the most important determinants for attaining the benefits of any diet. Individuals should choose the dietary pattern that best fits with their values and preferences, allowing them to achieve the greatest adherence over the long term.

- We suggest that individuals avoid the intake of trans fats and decrease the intake of saturated fats for CVD disease risk reduction (Conditional Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence).

- We suggest that to increase the probability of achieving a cardiovascular benefit, individuals should replace saturated fats with polyunsaturated fats (Conditional Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence), emphasizing those from mixed omega-3/omega-6 PUFAs sources (e.g. canola and soybean oils) (Conditional Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence), and target an intake of saturated fats of <9% of total energy (Conditional Recommendation, Low Quality Evidence). If saturated fats are replaced with mono-unsaturated fatty acids (MUFAs) and carbohydrates, then people should choose plant sources of MUFAs (e.g. olive oil, canola oil, nuts, and seeds) and high-quality sources of carbohydrates (e.g. whole grains and low glycemic index carbohydrates) (Conditional Recommendation, Low Quality Evidence).

- We recommend that omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) supplements not be used to reduce CVD events (Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence).

**Values and preferences** - Although there is no apparent cardiovascular benefit, patients may choose to use these supplements for other indications including the management of high triglycerides. Individuals should be aware that there are different preparations of long chain omega-3 PUFAs high in docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) and eicosapentaenoic (EPA) acid from marine, algal, and yeast sources and that high doses are required (2-4 g/day).

- We recommend that omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) supplements not be used to reduce CVD events (Strong Recommendation).

CVD: cardiovascular disease.
Healthy Eating - Continued

Values and preferences - Industrial trans fats are no longer generally regarded as safe (GRAS) in the United States and there are monitoring efforts aimed at reducing them to the lowest level possible in Canada. These conditions make it increasingly difficult for individuals to consume trans fats in any appreciable amount. Individuals may choose to reduce or replace different food sources of saturated fats in the diet, recognizing that some food sources of saturated fats, such as milk and dairy products and plant-based sources of saturated fats, have not been reliably associated with harm.

• We suggest that all individuals be encouraged to moderate energy (caloric) intake to achieve and maintain a healthy body weight (Conditional Recommendation, Moderate-Quality Evidence) and adopt a healthy dietary pattern to lower their CVD risk:

(a) Mediterranean dietary pattern (Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence)
(b) Portfolio dietary pattern (Conditional Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence)
(c) DASH dietary pattern (Conditional Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence)
(d) Dietary patterns high in nuts (≥30 g/day) (Conditional Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence)
(e) Dietary patterns high in legumes (≥4 servings/week) (Conditional Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence)
(f) Dietary patterns high in olive oil (≥60 mL/day) (Conditional Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence)
(g) Dietary patterns rich in fruits and vegetables (≥5 servings/day) (Conditional Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence)
(h) Dietary patterns high in total fibre (≥30 g/day) (Conditional Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence) and whole grains (≥3 servings/day) (Conditional Recommendation, Low-Quality Evidence)
(i) Low-glycemic load (GL) (Conditional Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence) or low-glycemic index (GI) (Conditional Recommendation, Low Quality Evidence) dietary patterns
(j) Vegetarian dietary patterns (Conditional Recommendation, Very Low Quality Evidence)

Values and preferences - Adherence is one of the most important determinants for attaining the benefits of any diet. High food costs (e.g. fresh fruits and vegetables), allergies (e.g. peanut and tree nut allergies), intolerances (e.g. lactose intolerance), and gastrointestinal (GI) side effects (e.g. flatulence and bloating from fibre) may present as important barriers to adherence. Other barriers may include culinary (e.g. ability and time to prepare foods), cultural (e.g. culturally specific foods), and ecological/environmental (e.g. sustainability of diets) considerations. Individuals should choose the dietary pattern that best fits with their values and preferences, allowing them to achieve the greatest adherence over the long term.

CVD: cardiovascular disease.
Healthy Eating - Continued

- We suggest the following dietary patterns for LDL-C lowering:
  
  (a) Dietary patterns high in dietary pulses (≥1 serving/day or ≥130 g/day) (beans, peas, chickpeas, and lentils) *(Conditional Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence)*
  
  (b) Low GI dietary patterns *(Conditional Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence)*
  
  (c) DASH dietary pattern *(Conditional Recommendation, Moderate Quality Evidence)*

- We recommend the following dietary components for LDL-C lowering:
  
  (a) Portfolio dietary pattern *(Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence)*
  
  (b) Dietary patterns high in nuts (≥30 g/day) *(Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence)*
  
  (c) Dietary patterns high in soy protein (≥30 g/day) *(Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence)*
  
  (d) Dietary patterns with plant sterols/stanols (≥2 g/day) *(Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence)*
  
  (e) Dietary patterns high in viscous soluble fibre from oats, barley, psyllium, pectin, or konjac mannan (≥10 g/day) *(Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence)*
  
  (f) US NCEP Step I and II dietary patterns *(Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence)*

**Values and preferences** - Individuals may choose to use an LDL-C lowering dietary pattern alone or as an add-on to lipid-lowering therapy to achieve targets. Dietary patterns based on single-food interventions (high plant sterols/stanols, viscous soluble fibre, nuts, soy, dietary pulses) may be considered additive (that is, the ~5-10% LDL-C lowering effect of each food can be summed) based on the evidence from the Portfolio dietary pattern.
Treatment: Health Behaviour Interventions

Activity

• We recommend that adults should accumulate at least 150 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous intensity aerobic physical activity per week, in bouts of 10 minutes or more to reduce CVD risk (Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence).

Smoking Cessation

• We recommend that adults who smoke should receive clinician advice to stop smoking to reduce CVD risk (Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence).

Facilitators for Change

• We recommend combining low-risk lifestyle behaviors that include achieving and maintaining a healthy body weight, healthy diet, regular physical activity, moderate alcohol consumption, and moderate sleep duration to achieve maximal CVD risk reduction (Strong Recommendation, High Quality Evidence).

Values and preferences - Low risk lifestyle behaviours are variably defined as follows: a healthy body weight (BMI 18.5-25 to <30kg/m² or waist circumference of <88 cm for women or <95 to <102 cm for men), healthy diet (higher fruits & vegetables to Mediterranean dietary pattern), regular physical activity (≥1 time/week to 40 min/day plus 1 hour/week of intense exercise), smoking cessation (never smoked to smoking cessation >12 months), moderate alcohol consumption (≥12-14g/month to 46 g/day), and moderate sleep duration (6 to 8hours/night). Individuals can achieve benefits in a dose-dependent manner.

CVD: cardiovascular disease.

We recognize that lifestyle changes are not easy to achieve, but real effort should be exerted to realize the potential benefit of these non-pharmacological interventions.
## Approaches to Risk Management

### WHO TO SCREEN

| Men ≥40 years of age; women ≥40 years of age (or postmenopausal) Consider earlier in ethnic groups at increased risk such as South Asian or First Nations individuals |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All patients with the following conditions regardless of age:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical evidence of atherosclerosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal aortic aneurysm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arterial hypertension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current cigarette smoking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stigmata of dyslipidemia (arcus cornea, xanthelasma or xanthoma)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history of premature CVD*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history of dyslipidemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic kidney disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity (BMI ≥30 kg/m²)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflammatory disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV infection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erectile dysfunction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertensive diseases of pregnancy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### HOW TO SCREEN

For all:
- History and physical examination
- Standard lipid panel (TC, LDL-C, HDL-C, TG)
- Non-HDL-C (will be calculated from profile)
- Glucose
- eGFR

Optional:
- ApoB
- Urine albumin:creatinine ratio (if eGFR <60 mL/min/1.73m², hypertension or diabetes)

**NON-FASTING LIPID TESTING IS ACCEPTABLE**

### Risk Assessment, Stratification & Treatment Consideration

Calculate risk (unless statin-indicated condition) using the Framingham Risk Score (FRS) or Cardiovascular Life Expectancy Model (CLEM)‡

Repeat screening every 5 years for FRS <5% or every year for FRS ≥5%

### No Pharmacotherapy

| Low Risk |
| FRS <10% |

| Primary Prevention Conditions |

| Intermediate Risk |
| FRS 10-19% and LDL-C ≥3.5 mmol/L or Non-HDL-C ≥4.3 mmol/L or ApoB ≥1.2 g/L or Men ≥50 and women ≥60 with one additional risk factor: low HDL-C, impaired fasting glucose, high waist circumference, smoker, hypertension |

| High Risk |
| FRS ≥20% or alternative method |

### Statin-indicated Conditions

| LDL-C ≥5mmol/L (genetic dyslipidemia) |

**‡**Statins are first line therapy but add-on or alternative therapy may be required as per the algorithm.

**¶**Consider more aggressive targets for recent ACS patients.

****PCSK9 inhibitors have not been adequately studied as add-on to statins for patients with diabetes and other co-morbidities.

**Rx:** prescription.

---

Health Behavioural Modifications

- Smoking cessation
- Diet: It is recommended all individuals adopt a health dietary pattern.
- Exercise: It is recommended adults should accumulate at least 150 minutes per week of moderate-vigorous intensity aerobic physical activity

Monitor

- Response to statin Rx
- Health behaviours

NO ADD-ON

Discus add-on therapy with patient:

- Evaluate reduction in CVD risk vs. additional cost & side effects

No Pharmacotherapy

- Low Risk
  - FRS <10%

**Primary Prevention Conditions**

- Intermediate Risk
  - FRS 10-19%
  - LDL-C ≥3.5 mmol/L
  - Non-HDL-C ≥4.3 mmol/L
  - ApoB ≥1.2 g/L
  - Men ≥50 and women ≥60 with one additional risk factor: low HDL-C, impaired fasting glucose, high waist circumference, smoker, hypertension

- High Risk
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  - or alternative method

**Statin-indicated Conditions**

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---

For all:
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Optional:
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- Urine albumin:creatinine ratio (if eGFR <60 mL/min/1.73m², hypertension or diabetes)

**NON-FASTING LIPID TESTING IS ACCEPTABLE**

**Clinical atherosclerosis**

**Abdominal aortic aneurysm**

**Most diabetes including:**
- Age ≥40y
- Age ≥30y & 15y duration (Type 1 DM)
- Microvascular disease
- Chronic kidney disease

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Health Behavioural Modifications

- Smoking cessation
- Diet: It is recommended all individuals adopt a health dietary pattern.
- Exercise: It is recommended adults should accumulate at least 150 minutes per week of moderate-vigorous intensity aerobic physical activity

Monitor

- Response to statin Rx
- Health behaviours

NO ADD-ON

Discuss add-on therapy with patient:

- Evaluate reduction in CVD risk vs. additional cost & side effects

No Pharmacotherapy

- Low Risk
  - FRS <10%
**Health Behavioural Modifications**

- Smoking cessation
- Diet: It is recommended all individuals adopt a health dietary pattern.\(^\dagger\)
- Exercise: It is recommended adults should accumulate at least 150 minutes per week of moderate-vigorous intensity aerobic physical activity

**Initiate Statin Treatment: Treat to Target Approach**

- Confirm adherence and barriers to use

**Target achieved on maximally tolerated dose?**

- YES: **No Add-on**
- NO: **Discuss add-on therapy with patient:**
  - Evaluate reduction in CVD risk vs. additional cost & side effects
  - ADD-ON

**Monitor**

- Response to statin Rx
- Health behaviours

**Add-on Therapy**

- Ezetimibe as 1st line (BAS as alternative)
- Ezetimibe 1st line (BAS as alternative) PCSK9 inhibitors as 2nd line (add on to other drugs)**
- Ezetimibe (or BAS) or PCSK9 inhibitors

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\(^*\)Men <55 and women <65 yrs of age in first degree relative.

\(^\dagger\)http://ccs.ca

\(^\ddagger\)Statins are first line therapy but add-on or alternative therapy may be required as per the algorithm.

\(^\ddagger\ddagger\)Anderson et al. 2016 Update of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society guidelines for the management of dyslipidemia for the prevention of cardiovascular disease in the adult (publication pending).

\(^\ddagger\ddagger\ddagger\)Consider more aggressive targets for recent ACS patients.

**PCS\(_{\text{K9}}\)** inhibitors have not been adequately studied as add-on to statins for patients with diabetes and other co-morbidities.

apoB: apolipoprotein B; BAS: bile acid sequestrants; BMI: body mass index; CVD: cardiovascular disease; HDL-C: high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HIV: human immunodeficiency virus; LDL-C: low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; TC: total cholesterol; TG: triglycerides; Rx: prescription.
## Follow-up

- Most lipid lowering medications are well-tolerated
- Serum transaminases should be checked within first 3 months
- Creatine kinase can be checked if myalgias develop
- Routine testing of ALT or CK is not required thereafter

## Referral May be Warranted in the Following Cases

- Unexplained atherosclerosis
- Severe dyslipidemias
- Genetic lipoprotein disorders
- Patients refractory to pharmacological treatment

ALT: alanine aminotransferase; CK: creatine kinase.
Update your Lipids iCCS app

iCCS replaces our individual guideline apps and contains the most up-to-date guideline information

Download the iCCS App today

For more information visit CCS.CA/apps
Please visit us at www.ccs.ca

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