Completion of baseline EKG In patients diagnosed with Hypertension

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Background: Hypertension (HTN) is one of the most common chronic medical conditions in the United States, affecting approximately 46% of persons aged 20 years or older. Until the age of 65, HTN is more common in males, but after 65, it is more common in females. Treating hypertension reduces risk of stroke, heart failure and kidney disease. When patients are first diagnosed with HTN, basic testing should be performed to assess for end organ damage, this includes EKG, BMP, urinalysis, CBC, TSH, lipid profile, and ASCVD risk.

Methods: We utilized the Epic search tool, we were able to complete a search of patients who are currently patients at the IMFP clinic and HTN. We did a chart review of every chart which was yielded in this search.

Results: Of the patients we studied whom were average age is 62.2 years, 66.66% of those identified as female. Out of the 111 charts which were pulled through epic search of HTN and being a current patient of the IMFP medical practice, 102/111 of the patients had diagnosed hypertension, of the 102 patients with confirmed hypertension 78 (76.5%) had an EKG on file. Of note, IMFP recently transitioned to Epic, which was able to bring in a lot of outside records. On further evaluation, 49/102 of the patients had EKG's at the IMFP office. Prior to the merger of this EMR, only 48% of the patients whom are current patients with HTN had baseline EKG's on file.

Conclusion: Now with the implementation of Epic EMR, we have a rate of 76.5% compliance for baseline EKG in patients with HTN. Prior to the transition to Epic, which occurred in October of 2021, we would have only had a 48% compliance rate for baseline EKG. More connected EMR's are effective in improving compliance in healthcare maintenance.