

Indicators Spotlight

HEALTH CARE EXTENDERS

Background for Health Care Extenders

In the United States, health care extenders such as pharmacists, community health workers (CHWs), and patient navigators help us meet our national health goals by conducting activities and interventions that promote health and prevent diseases and disability. Health care extenders work closely with patients and providers to control chronic illness through education and counseling, communication with providers, and, in some cases, medication titration. Funded programs can play a role in reducing high blood pressure and high cholesterol by supporting high-level policy and systems changes that promote collaborative medication therapy management initiatives, training or certification of health care extenders to reach disparate populations, or the use of health care extenders in multidisciplinary clinical teams.

Purpose of the Indicators Spotlight

The purpose of this document is to give funded programs working in the field of health care extenders a list of potential indicators to explore for planning and evaluation purposes. Multiple indicators can be chosen as outcomes for logic models and measures for companion evaluation plans. This Indicators Spotlight should be used in conjunction with the Expert Panel Indicator Ratings Table and Indicator Profiles found in *Outcome Indicators for Policy and Systems Change: Controlling High Blood Pressure or Controlling High Cholesterol*.

Using Indicators for Planning

Step 1 **Determine the setting in which you want to intervene.** Health care extender activities occur in the health care systems or community arena. See Implementation Intervention Examples on Page 2 for ideas.

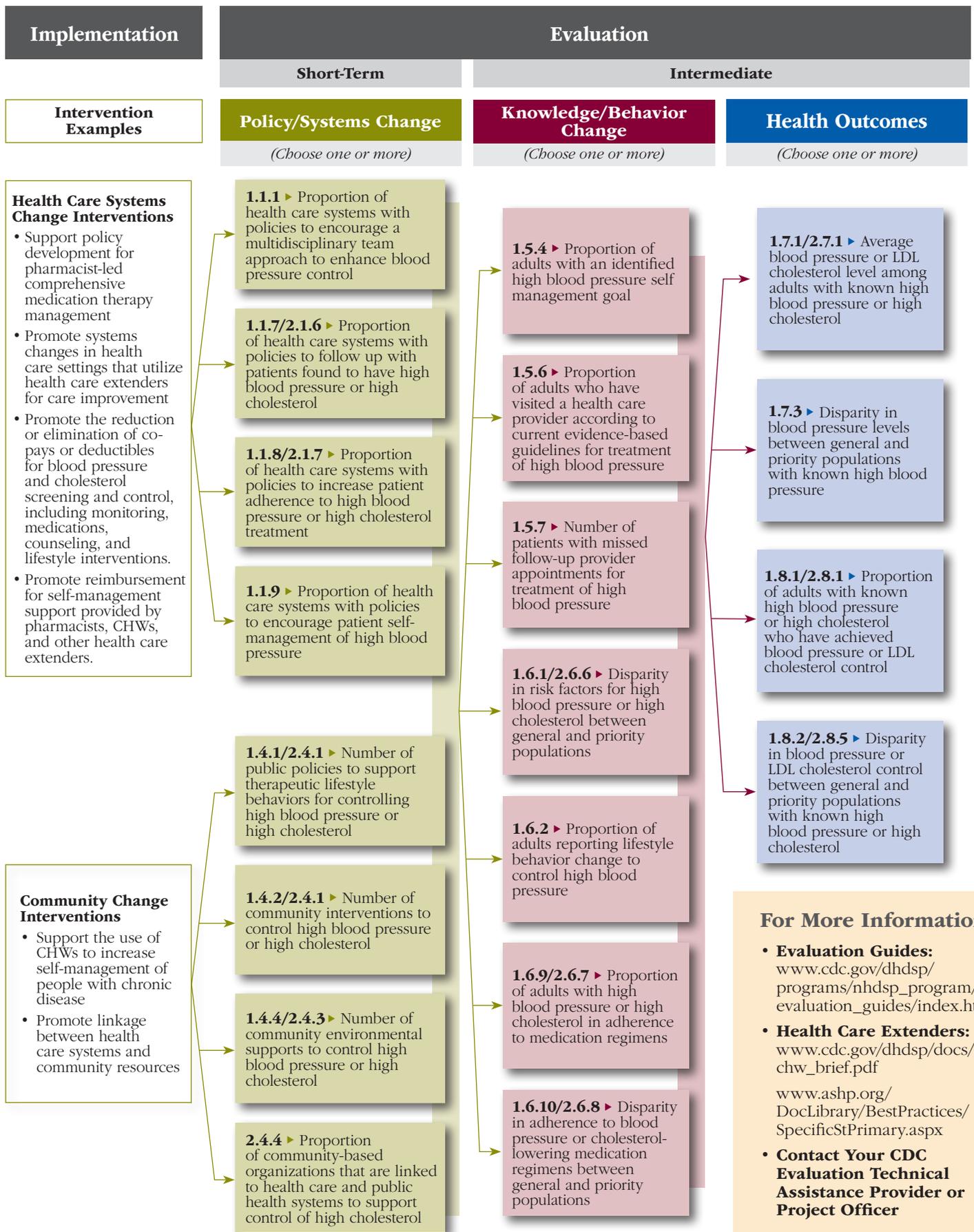
Step 2 **Select pertinent short-term policy/systems change indicators.** Interventions should be implemented at the highest level to impact the largest population. Health care extender policy and systems change approaches that successfully affect short-term outcomes will—with sufficient time and sustained effort—affect intermediate outcomes related to behavioral and physiological risk factors among individuals affected by the environmental changes.

Step 3 **Map outcomes of interest over time.** It is advantageous to determine the logic model pathway of one or more intermediate outcomes. Measuring short-term and intermediate outcomes along a logic model pathway allows programs to identify gaps in program implementation before completing a comprehensive evaluation that focuses on long-term outcomes related to death and disability.

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graph LR; A[Policy, Systems, or Environmental Changes] --> B[Knowledge and Behavior Changes]; B --> C[Health Outcomes]
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Step 4 **Enhance the evaluation with other outcomes of interest.** Round out the evaluation plan by including other pertinent outcomes that meet programmatic needs or the needs of decision makers.





For More Information

- Evaluation Guides:** www.cdc.gov/dhdsdp/programs/nhdsp_program/evaluation_guides/index.htm
- Health Care Extenders:** www.cdc.gov/dhdsdp/docs/chw_brief.pdf
- www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/BestPractices/SpecificStPrimary.aspx
- Contact Your CDC Evaluation Technical Assistance Provider or Project Officer**

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