

Quality Initiatives Definitions

1. **Acute Myocardial Infarction** – (the medical term for a heart attack) happens when the arteries leading to the heart become blocked and the blood supply is slowed or stopped. When the heart muscle cannot get the oxygen and nutrients it needs, the part of the heart that is affected may die. The indicators listed for Acute MI are evidence-based interventions which increase the chances of surviving a heart attack and preventing a future heart attack.
2. **ACE Inhibitor** – (angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor) is a type of medication used to treat patients with heart failure and is particularly beneficial in those patients with decreased function on the left side of the heart. Early treatment in patients who have heart failure symptoms or decreased heart function after a heart attack can also reduce the risk of death from future heart attacks. An ARB medication may be used instead of an ACE inhibitor. Since these two medications work in different ways, your doctor will determine which medication is right for you.
3. **Antibiotics** – are medications used to treat infections, however, different infections are treated with different antibiotics. A blood test is used to determine which antibiotic is the most effective treatment for patients with pneumonia. In the case of surgical patients, prophylactic antibiotics are used to prevent infections. Taking antibiotics for more than 24 hours after surgery is not necessary and can increase the risk of side effects, such as stomach aches or diarrhea. It can also increase bacteria's resistance to antibiotics, which means they will not work effectively anymore.
4. **ARB** – (angiotensin-receptor blocker) – is a type of medication used to treat patients with heart failure and is particularly beneficial in those patients with decreased function on the left side of the heart. Early treatment in patients who have heart failure symptoms or decreased heart function after a heart attack can also reduce the risk of death from future heart attacks. An ACE Inhibitor medication may be used instead of an ARB. Since these two medications work in different ways, your doctor will determine which medication is right for you.
5. **Beta Blockers** – is a type of medication used to lower blood pressure, treat chest pain and heart failure, and help prevent a heart attack. Beta blockers relieve the stress on the heart by slowing the heart rate and reducing the force with which the heart muscle pumps.
6. **Flu vaccine** – flu shots reduce the risk of influenza, which is a serious lung infection that can spread quickly in the community. All adults over 19 years of age, and particularly those over 50 years of age, should get a flu shot annually during flu season to protect them from influenza and other lung infections, and to help prevent the spread of influenza.
7. **Heart Failure** – is a weakening of the heart's pumping power. With heart failure, your body does not get enough of the oxygen and nutrients it needs. Your heart tries to pump more blood to increase the supply, but the muscle walls become weaker over time. The indicators listed under Congestive Heart Failure are evidenced-based interventions for the treatment of heart failure.

8. **Left ventricular systolic dysfunction** – this means your heart's left side is not working properly. A test can be done to evaluate your heart's left ventricular function to let your doctor know if it is pumping properly, because proper treatment for heart failure depends on what area of your heart is affected.
9. **Pneumonia vaccine** – (pneumococcal vaccine) the pneumonia shot may help prevent or lower the risk of pneumonia caused by bacteria. All patients over the age of 65 years old should have one shot. Patients between the ages of 19 years and 64 years of age who have a high risk of getting respiratory illnesses should also consider getting a pneumonia shot, and repeating it after the age of 65 years.
10. **Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI)** – The heart muscle gets oxygen through blood vessels. Sometimes blood clots can block those blood vessels, and the heart cannot get enough oxygen. This can cause a heart attack. Percutaneous Coronary Interventions (angioplasty, stent placement) are procedures that are among the most effective ways to open blocked vessels and help prevent further heart muscle damage.
11. **Pneumonia** – is caused by a viral or bacterial infection that fills your lungs with mucus. This lowers the oxygen level in your blood, which is why it is important to determine your oxygenation status upon admission to the hospital. Community acquired pneumonia simply means that you got pneumonia within the community setting, as opposed to getting it during a hospitalization.