### Comparison of Seventh Joint National Committee (JNC 7) vs. Eighth Joint National Committee (JNC 8) Hypertension Guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Methodology</th>
<th>JNC 7</th>
<th>JNC 8 (2014 Hypertension Guideline)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nonsystematic literature review by expert committee including range of study designs</td>
<td>Critical questions and review criteria defined by expert panel with input from methodology team</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommendations based on consensus</td>
<td>Initial systematic review by methodologists restricted to randomized controlled trial (RCT) evidence</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Subsequent review of RCT evidence and recommendations by the panel according to standardized protocol</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definitions</th>
<th>JNC 7</th>
<th>JNC 8 (2014 Hypertension Guideline)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Defined hypertension (HTN) and pre-HTN</td>
<td>Definitions not addressed, but defined thresholds for pharmacological treatment</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Normal: Systolic Blood Pressure (SBP) &lt;120mmHg and Diastolic Blood Pressure (DBP) &lt;80 mmHg</td>
<td>(See Treatment Goals below)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-HTN: SBP 120-139; DBP 80-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 1 HTN: SBP 140-159; DBP 90-99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 2 HTN: SBP ≥160; DBP ≥100</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Treatment Goals</th>
<th>JNC 7</th>
<th>JNC 8 (2014 Hypertension Guideline)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Separate treatment goals for “uncomplicated” HTN and for subsets with comorbid conditions: diabetes and chronic kidney disease (CKD)</td>
<td>Similar treatment goals for all hypertensive populations except when evidence supports different goals for a particular subpopulation</td>
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<tr>
<td>HTN: &lt;140/90 mmHg</td>
<td>Recommendation 1: General population ≥60 years: initiate pharmacological treatment to lower blood pressure (BP) at SBP ≥150 or DBP ≥90 and treat to a goal SBP &lt;150 and goal DBP &lt;90 (Strong Recommendation – Grade A)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HTN + diabetes or renal disease: &lt;130/80 mmHg</td>
<td>Corollary Recommendation: General population ≥60 years, if pharmacological treatment for high BP results in lower achieved SBP (eg. &lt;140) and treatment is well tolerated and without adverse effects on health or quality of life (QOL), treatment does not need to be adjusted (Expert Opinion – Grade E)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Recommendation 2:
**General population <60 years, initiate pharmacological treatment to lower BP at DBP ≥90 and treat to goal DBP <90** (for ages 30-59 years, Strong Recommendation – Grade A; for ages 18-29 years, Expert Opinion – Grade E)

Recommendation 3:
**General population <60 years, initiate pharmacological treatment to lower BP at SBP ≥140 and treat to goal SBP <140** (Expert Opinion – Grade E)

Recommendation 4:
**Population aged ≥18 years with CKD, initiate pharmacological treatment to lower BP at SBP ≥140 or DBP ≥90 and treat to goal SBP <140 and DBP <90** (Expert Opinion – Grade E)

Recommendation 5:
**Population aged ≥18 years with diabetes, initiate pharmacological treatment to lower BP at SBP ≥140 or DBP ≥90 and treat to goal SBP <140 and DBP <90** (Expert Opinion – Grade E)

Lifestyle Modifications

**Table 5. Lifestyle modifications to manage hypertension***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modification</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weight reduction</td>
<td>Maintain normal body weight (body mass index 18.5–24.9 kg/m²).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt DASH eating plan</td>
<td>Consume a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and low-fat dairy products with a reduced content of saturated and total fat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dietary sodium reduction</td>
<td>Reduce dietary sodium intake to no more than 100 mmol per day (2.4 g sodium or 6 g sodium chloride).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical activity</td>
<td>Engage in regular aerobic physical activity such as brisk walking (at least 30 min per day, most days of the week).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate alcohol consumption</td>
<td>Limit consumption to no more than 2 drinks (1 oz or 30 mL ethanol; e.g., 24 oz beer, 10 oz wine, or 3 oz 80-proof whiskey) per day in most men and to no more than 1 drink per day in women and lighter-weight persons.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Lifestyle modifications recommended by endorsing the evidence-based recommendations of the Lifestyle Work Group**

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<tr>
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<th>Recommendations</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Adopt Dash eating plan</strong></td>
<td>Diet emphasizes intake of veggies, fruits, and whole grains; includes low-fat dairy products, poultry, fish, legumes, non-tropical vegetables, oils and nuts; limits intake of sweets, sugar-sweetened beverages and red meat.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dietary sodium reduction</strong></td>
<td>Lower sodium (Na) intake. Consume no more than 2,400 mg Na/day; further reduction of sodium intake to 1,500 mg/day is desirable since it is associated with even greater reduction in BP. Reduce sodium intake by at least 1,000 mg/day to lower BP, even if the desired daily sodium intake is not yet achieved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DASH + dietary sodium reduction</strong></td>
<td>Combine DASH dietary pattern with lower sodium intake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical Activity</strong></td>
<td>Advise adults to engage in aerobic physical activity to lower BP: 3-4 sessions/week, lasting on average 40 min per session involving moderate-to-vigorous intensity physical activity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Drug Therapy**

| Stage 1 HTN, w/o compelling indication: | Thiazide-type diuretics for most. May consider ACEI, ARB, BB, CCB or combination |
| Stage 2 HTN, w/o compelling indication: | Two-drug combo for most (usually thiazide-type diuretic and ACEI or ARB or BB or CCB) |
| Compelling indications recommended drug classes: | HF: diuretic, BB, ACEI, ARB, AA  
Post MI: BB, ACEI, AA  
High coronary disease risk: diuretic, BB, ACEI, CCB  
Diabetes: diuretic, BB, ACEI, ARB, CCB  
CKD: ACEI, ARB  
Recurrent stroke protection: diuretic, ACEI |

**Recommended selection among 4 specific medication classes (ACEI, ARB, CCB, diuretics) and doses based on RCT evidence.**

**Recommended specific medication classes based on evidence review for racial, CKD, and diabetic subgroups.**

**Panel created a table of drugs and doses used in outcome trials**

**Recommendation 6:**

General nonblack population, including those with diabetes, initial anti-HTN management should include a thiazide-type diuretic, CCB, ACEI or ARB  
(Moderate Recommendation – Grade B)

**Recommendation 7:**

General black population, including those with diabetes, initial anti-HTN management should include a thiazide-type diuretic or CCB  
(General Black Population: Moderate Recommendation – Grade B; Black Patients with Diabetes: Weak Recommendation – Grade C)

**Recommendation 8:**

Population aged ≥18years with CKD, initial (or add-on) anti-HTN treatment should include an ACEI or ARB to improve kidney outcomes. Applies to all CKD patients with HTN, regardless of race or diabetes status  
(Moderate Recommendation – Grade B)

**Recommendation 9:**

The main objective of HTN treatment is to attain and maintain goal BP. If goal BP not reached within a month of treatment, increase the dose of initial drug or add a second drug from one of the classes in recommendation 6... If goal BP cannot be reached with 2 drugs, add and titrate a third drug from the list provided. Do not use an ACEI and an ARB together in the same patient. If goal BP cannot be reached with 3 drugs, hypertensive drugs from other classes can be used. (Expert Opinion – Grade E)

**Scope of Topics**

Addressed multiple issues (BP measurement methods, patient evaluation components, secondary HTN, adherence to regimens, resistant HTN, and HTN in special populations) based on literature review and expert opinion

Evidence review of RCTs addressed a limited number of questions, those judged by panel to be highest priority
Appendix

Figure 1. Algorithm for treatment of HTN from JNC 7

**Lifestyle Modifications**

Not at Goal Blood Pressure (<140/90 mmHg)
(<130/80 mmHg for patients with diabetes or chronic kidney disease)

**Initial Drug Choices**

Without Compelling Indications

- Stage 1 Hypertension
  (SBP 140–159 or DBP 90–99 mmHg)
  Thiazide-type diuretics for most. May consider ACEI, ARB, BB, CCB, or combination.

With Compelling Indications

- Stage 2 Hypertension
  (SBP ≥160 or DBP ≥100 mmHg)
  Two-drug combination for most (usually thiazide-type diuretic and ACEI, ARB, or BB, or CCB).

Drug(s) for the compelling indications
(See table 8)

- Other antihypertensive drugs (diuretics, ACEI, ARB, BB, CCB) as needed.

**Not at Goal Blood Pressure**

Optimize dosages or add additional drugs until goal blood pressure is achieved. Consider consultation with hypertension specialist.
Figure 2. JNC 8 (2014 HTN Guideline) Management Algorithm

Adult aged ≥18 years with hypertension

Implement lifestyle interventions (continue throughout management).

Set blood pressure goal and initiate blood pressure lowering medication based on age, diabetes, and chronic kidney disease (CKD).

General population (no diabetes or CKD)

- Age ≥60 years
  - Blood pressure goal: SBP <150 mm Hg, DBP <90 mm Hg
  - Nonblack: Initiate thiazide-type diuretic or ACEI or ARB or CCB, alone or in combination.
  - Black: Initiate thiazide-type diuretic or CCB, alone or in combination.

- Age <60 years
  - Blood pressure goal: SBP <140 mm Hg, DBP <90 mm Hg
  - Nonblack: Initiate thiazide-type diuretic or ACEI or ARB or CCB, alone or in combination.
  - Black: Initiate thiazide-type diuretic or CCB, alone or in combination.

Diabetes or CKD present

- All ages with diabetes present
  - No CKD: Blood pressure goal: SBP <140 mm Hg, DBP <90 mm Hg
  - Initiate ACEI or ARB, alone or in combination with other drug class.

- All ages with CKD present
  - Blood pressure goal: SBP <140 mm Hg, DBP <90 mm Hg
  - Initiate ACEI or ARB, alone or in combination with other drug class.

Select a drug treatment titration strategy
A. Maximize first medication before adding second or
B. Add second medication before reaching maximum dose of first medication or
C. Start with 2 medication classes separately or as fixed-dose combination.

At goal blood pressure?

Yes

Reinforce medication and lifestyle adherence.
For strategies A and B, add and titrate thiazide-type diuretic or ACEI or ARB or CCB (use medication class not previously selected and avoid combined use of ACEI and ARB).
For strategy C, titrate doses of initial medications to maximum.

At goal blood pressure?

Yes

Reinforce medication and lifestyle adherence.
Add and titrate thiazide-type diuretic or ACEI or ARB or CCB (use medication class not previously selected and avoid combined use of ACEI and ARB).

At goal blood pressure?

Yes

Reinforce medication and lifestyle adherence.
Add additional medication class (e.g., β-blocker, aldosterone antagonist, or others) and/or refer to physicians with expertise in hypertension management.

No

At goal blood pressure?

No

Continue current treatment and monitoring.