



**Topic of the Month
February 2015**

Screening for Hypertension

Hypertension is a recognized global disease and affects patients of every demographic. Therefore, we encourage all practices, regardless of specialty, to check each patient's blood pressure during an office visit with their provider, even if the patient has no prior history of high blood pressure.

Many factors may increase a patient's blood pressure and it is recommended that members with a high blood pressure reading be asked if they are under treatment for hypertension. If they are not, the patient should be encouraged to schedule an appointment with his or her primary care provider to screen for potential disease.

Providers performing blood pressure checks on each patient at every office visit ensures that diseases, like hypertension, do not pass undetected and improves the chances for successful treatment. Together, the medical community can reduce the growing effects of hypertension on the patient population.

For questions or concerns regarding this communication, please contact Provider Relations at MSFCProviderRelations2@medstar.net or 1-800-905-1722 option 6.