

# Michigan Assessment of Blood Pressure and Diabetes Screening Practices

## Among Oral Health Professionals



Hypertension, also known as high blood pressure, is the leading cause of heart disease and stroke. According to the 2013 Michigan Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, an estimated 34.6% of Michigan adults reported ever being told by a doctor that they had high blood pressure. Furthermore, 75.7% of Michigan adults with high blood pressure are currently taking medications for their high blood pressure.

An estimated 10.4% of Michigan adults have been diagnosed with diabetes and over 2.6 million are estimated to have prediabetes, where people have a blood glucose level higher than normal, but not yet considered diabetes.

Screenings by oral health providers for the most common chronic medical diseases could save the American health care system as much as \$102.6 million annually, according to a new study conducted by the ADA Health Policy Resources Center (HPRC). Oral health professionals have an obligation to help their patients achieve optimal overall health while increasing the health of the oral cavity by screening for hypertension and diabetes at chairside.

As part of a collaboration within the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Oral Health Unit, the Cardiovascular and Diabetes Sections along with Delta Dental, have developed this survey/assessment for oral health care providers to ascertain their professional activities in regards to chairside screening for hypertension and diabetes.

The purpose of this assessment is to:

- Assess screening procedures for hypertension and diabetes in oral health practices.
- Assess the knowledge of oral health professionals on the basis of referrals for care for hypertension and diabetes
- Determine if referrals are being made for high blood pressure readings and elevated blood glucose levels in oral health practices.
- Determine if oral health practices perform any follow up after making referrals for patients with high blood pressure readings and elevated blood glucose levels.

The results from this assessment will provide valuable information that can be utilized as educational opportunities and resources. In addition, the results of this assessment will assist in the development and piloting of an intervention, and sharing best practices to increase the number of Michigan residents who are screened and referred to primary care practices, due to high readings, for hypertension and diabetes in oral health practices.

**You are invited to use the following link to take the survey online by April 15, 2016:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BPscreen>

**Or if you prefer an electronic fillable form you can request one from: [demings@michigan.gov](mailto:demings@michigan.gov) )**

**(Only one survey per provider please).**

**Thank you so very much for taking the time to assist us in improving the health of Michigan residents!**