

Few patients fill high-intensity statin Rx after CHD discharge

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(HealthDay)—Only about a quarter of Medicare beneficiaries fill a high-intensity statin prescription after discharge from hospitalization for a coronary heart disease (CHD) event, according to a study published in the Jan. 27 issue of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.

Robert S. Rosenson, M.D., from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City, and colleagues examined the proportion of Medicare beneficiaries filling prescriptions for high-intensity statins after [hospital](#) discharge for a CHD event. Data were collected retrospectively using a 5 percent random sample of Medicare beneficiaries aged 65 to 74 years.

The researchers found that 27 percent of the first post-discharge fills among 8,762 Medicare beneficiaries filling a statin prescription after a CHD event were for a high-intensity statin. The percent filling a high-intensity statin post-discharge was 23.1 percent for beneficiaries not taking statins pre-hospitalization, 9.4 percent for those taking low/moderate-intensity statins pre-hospitalization, and 80.7 percent for those taking high-intensity statins pre-hospitalization. The multivariable adjusted rate ratios for filling a high-intensity statin were 4.01 for those taking high-intensity statins

and 0.45 for those taking low/moderate-intensity statins before their CHD event, compared with beneficiaries not on statin therapy pre-hospitalization.

"The majority of Medicare beneficiaries do not fill high-intensity statins after hospitalization for CHD," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to pharmaceutical companies, including Amgen, which provided a grant to the University of Alabama Birmingham for this study.

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