

## HEART TO HEART

Researchers found that hospitals participating in a Medicare pay-for-performance pilot project made significant improvements in their care of heart attack patients. But hospitals that instead participated in a quality initiative from the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Assn. made similar gains, despite the absence of bonuses for high performance.

Quality measures	Pay-for-performance participants		ACC/AHA participants	
	2003	2006	2003	2006
Aspirin at arrival	92.8%	97.1%	93.5%	96.4%
Aspirin at discharge	91.1%	97.1%	92.2%	95.9%
Beta-blocker at arrival	82.7%	90.7%	84.7%	92.2%
Beta-blocker at discharge	87.5%	93.6%	88.6%	94.0%
ACE inhibitor or ARB at discharge	70.5%	79.6%	70.7%	78.4%
Smoking cessation counseling	75.8%	95.8%	74.0%	88.8%
<b>Composite</b>	<b>87.0%</b>	<b>94.2%</b>	<b>88.0%</b>	<b>93.6%</b>

SOURCE: JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, JUNE 6

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