



# *Measure Up/Pressure Down* **Medical Group Success**



Deborah A. Molina, MPA, MBA  
*Manager, Quality*



Jamie L. Reedy, MD, MPH  
*Medical Director, Population Health*



Laura Balsamini, Pharm D, BCPS  
*Director, Pharmacy Services*

10/16/14

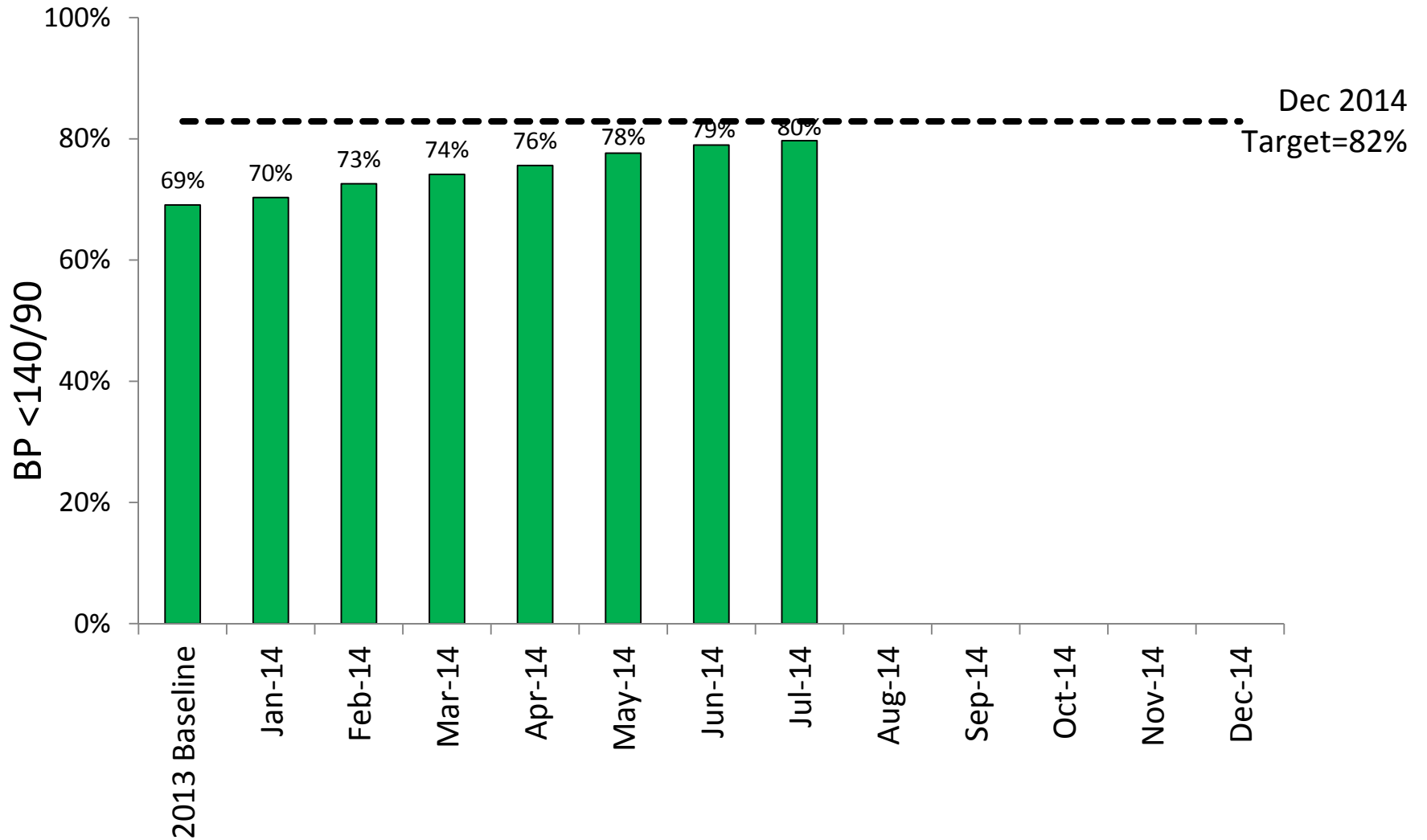


- Largest independent multispecialty group in NJ
- 500 providers, 80 specialties, 50 locations
- 80,000 visits/month



# Primary Care BP in Control

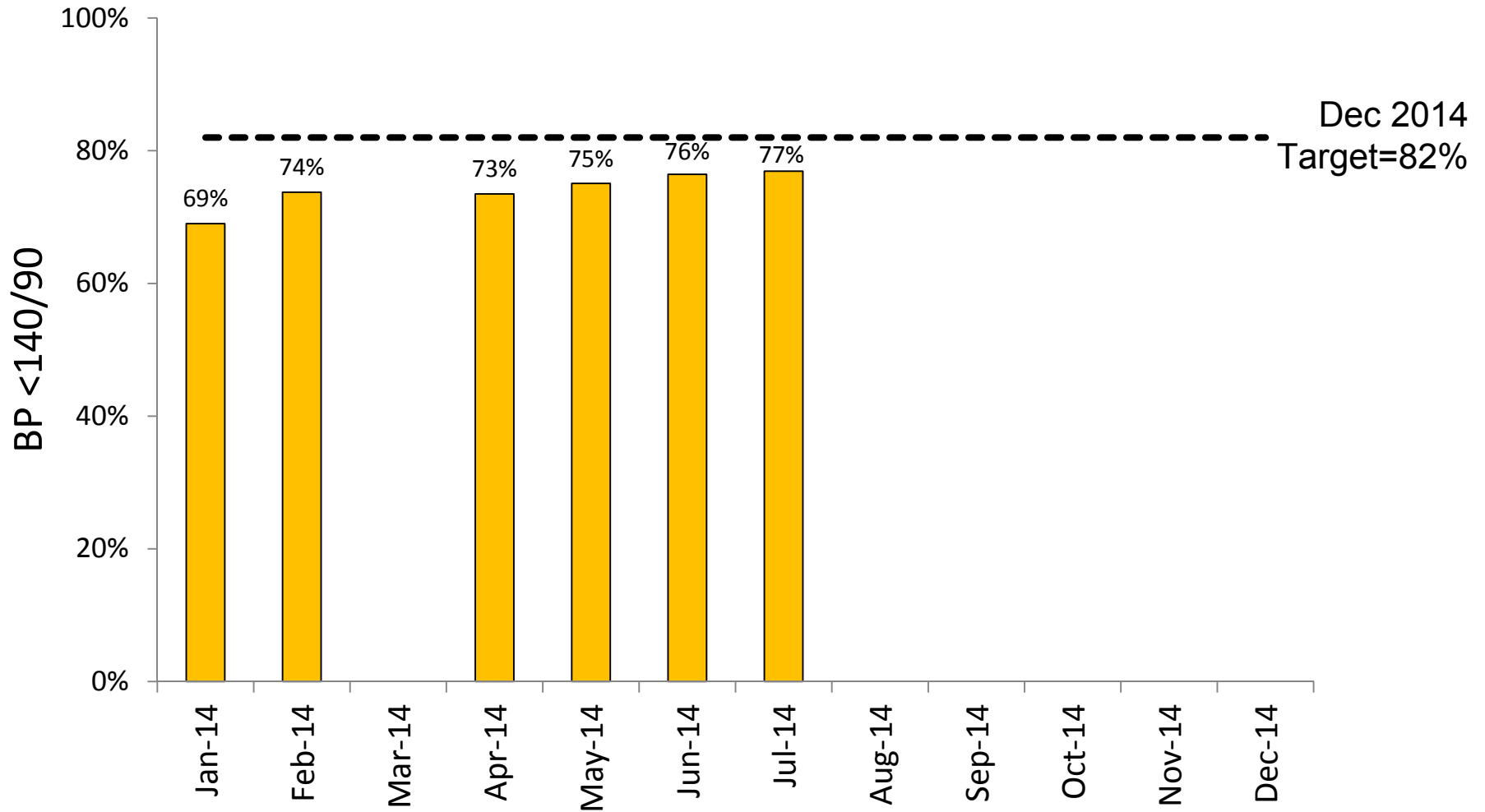
N=14,767 unique patients





# Endocrinology BP in Control

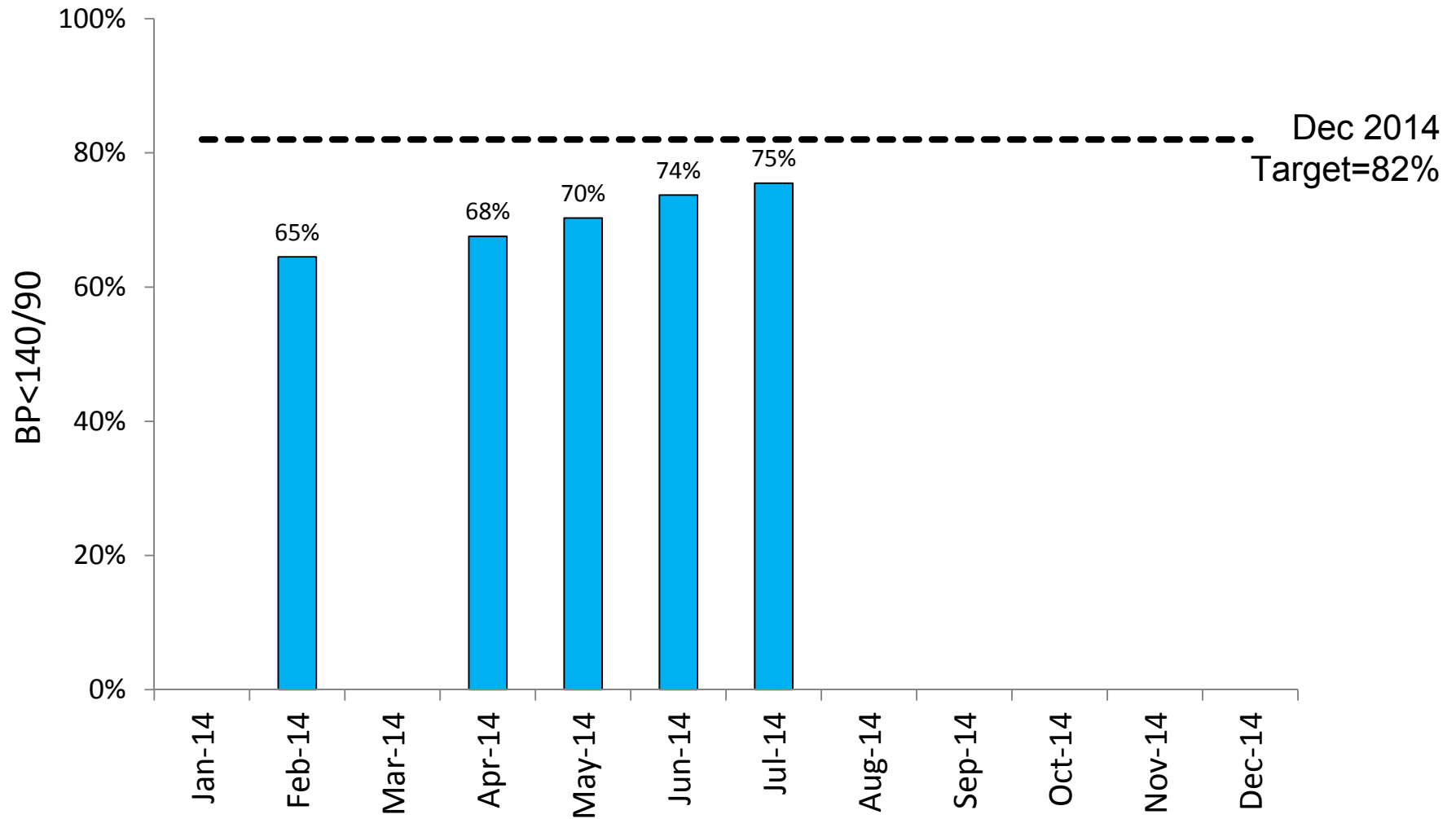
N=2,400 unique patients





# Cardiology BP in Control

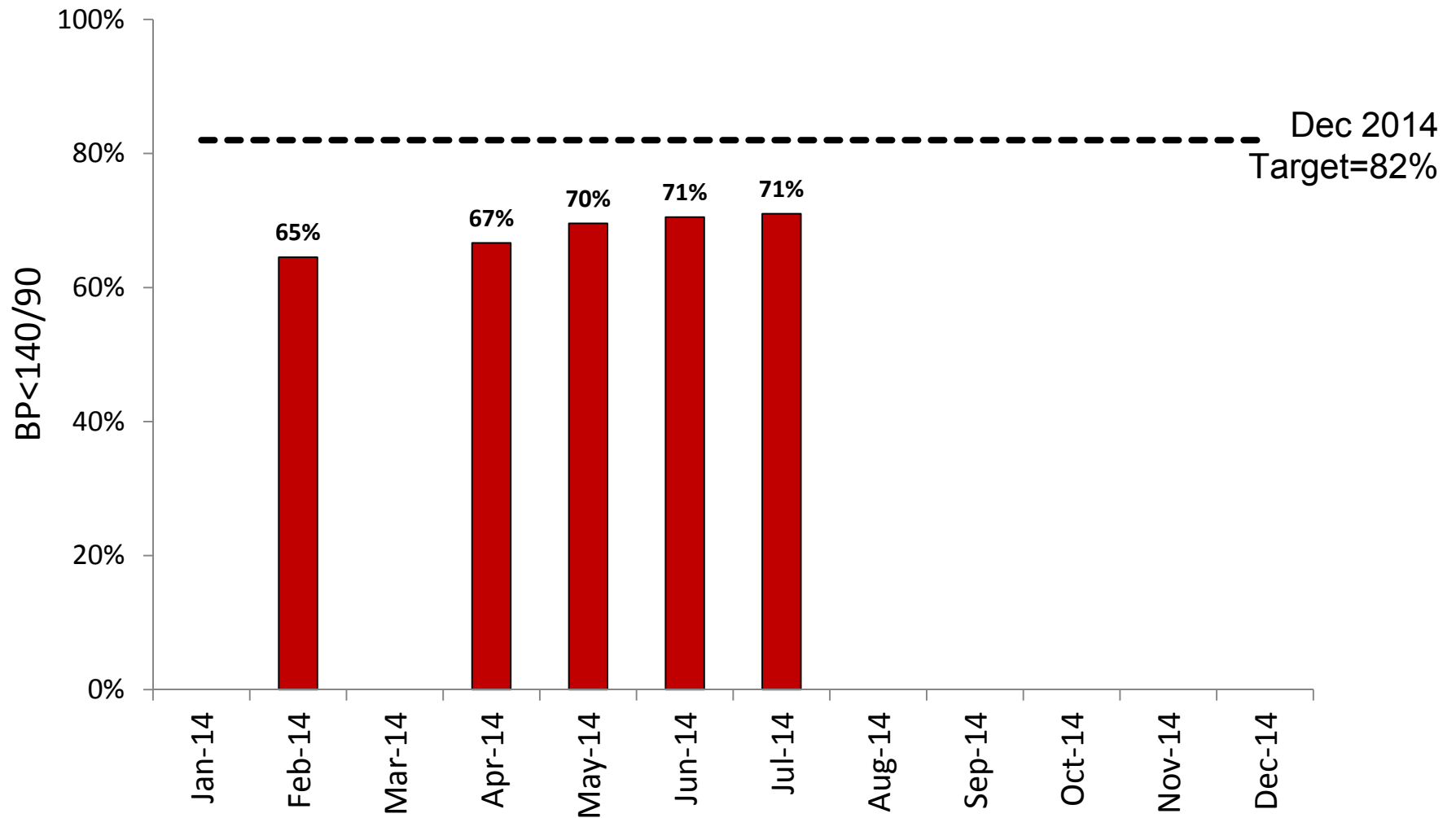
N=2,668 unique patients





# Nephrology BP in Control

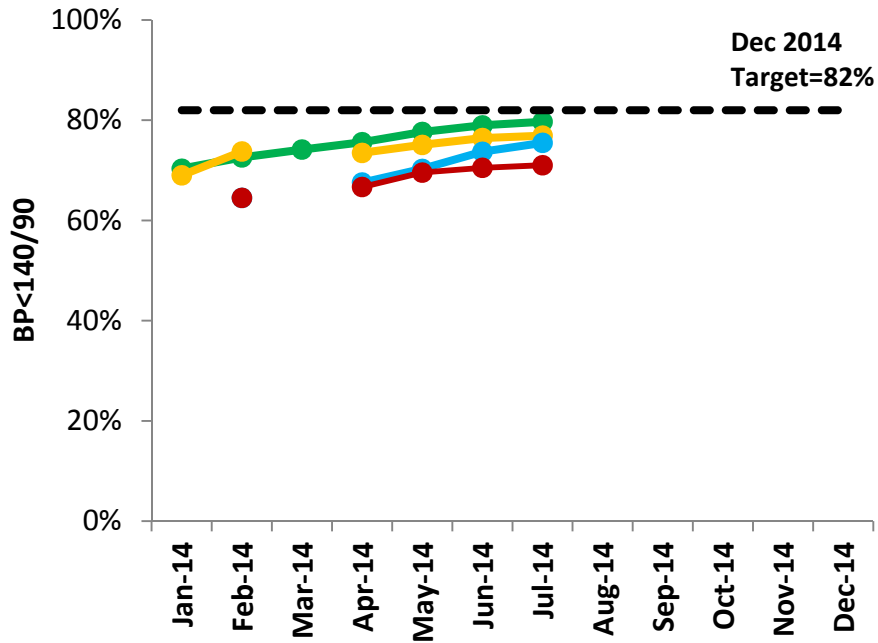
N=207 unique patients





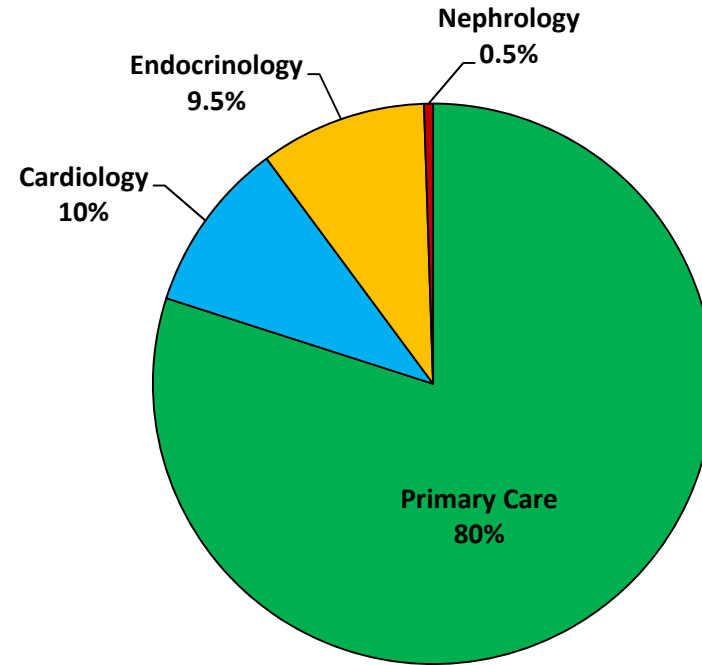
# SMG BP in Control

N=18,472\*



\*Unique Patients

## 18,472 Patients with Hypertension



**SMG Overall BP Control Rate: 79%**



Jamie L. Reedy, MD, MPH  
*Medical Director, Population Health*







# Two Theme Approach

---

## Engage stakeholders

- Physicians, APNs & PAs
- Clinical Staff
- Patients

## Reduce variation

- Medication profiles
- Accurate BP measurement
- Team-based care



# Provider Engagement

---

## Individual Engagement

- Group-wide “Kick-Off” meeting Dec. 2013
- Physician-led HTN committee
- Physician compensation tied to quality outcomes
- Regular group updates to increase awareness

## Population Health Support

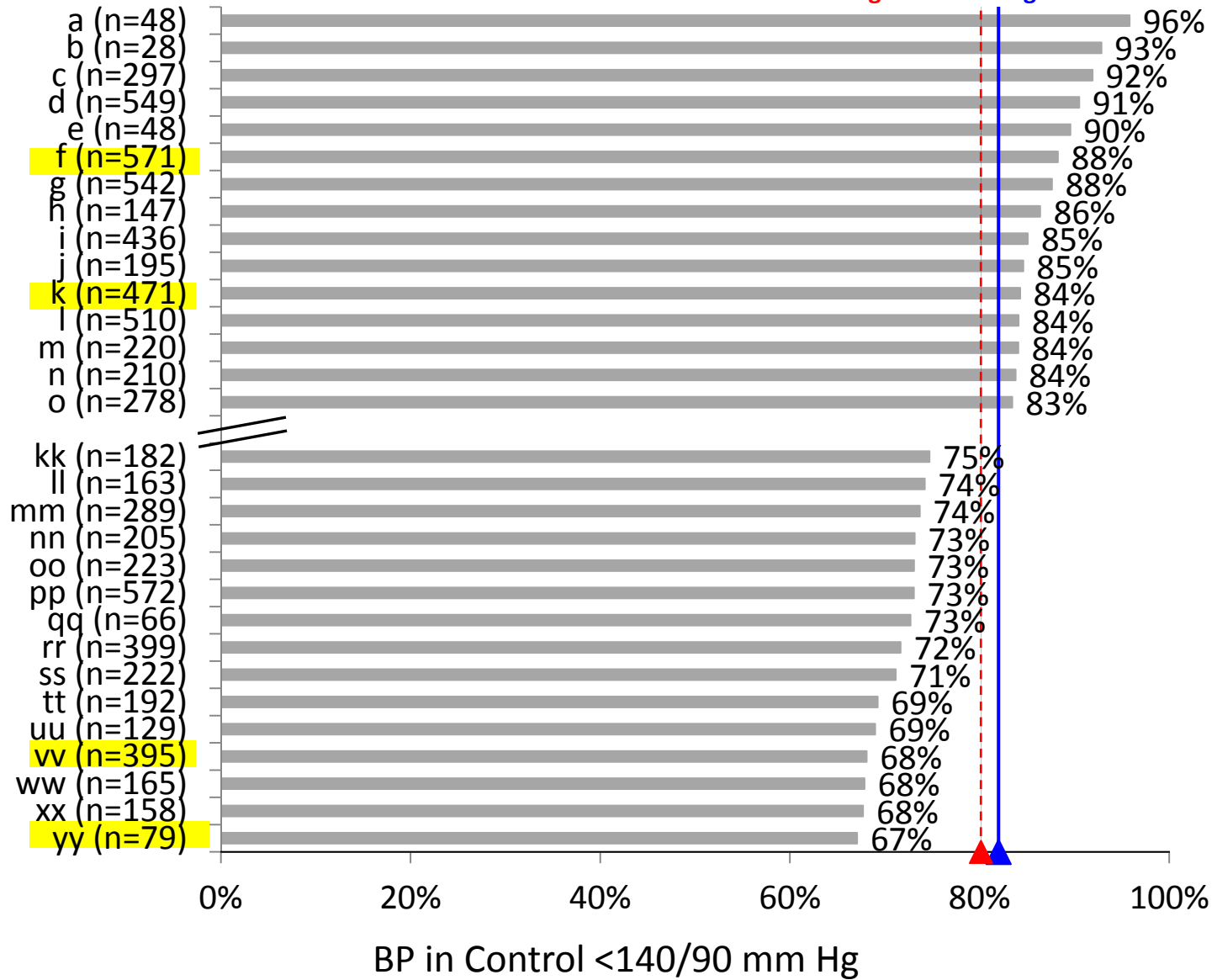
- Transparent unblinded reporting by provider & pod
- Monthly lists of patients not in control
- Singular quality improvement focus group-wide for 2014
- New EMR: assure all BP reminders are “on”

# Primary Care BP in Control, by Provider, Jul 2014

N=14,767 unique patients

Jul 2014  
Avg=80%

Dec 2014  
Target=82%



Date Range: 1/1/2014-7/28/2014



# Number Needed to Treat (NNT)

For every 36 patients with BP in control for 5 years we avoid 1 event (AMI and stroke)

Timeframe	Population	BP Control Rate	Patients in Control	Avoided AMI/-strokes	Avoided Costs
Baseline (2013)	15,000	69%	10,350	<b>288</b>	<b>\$7,776,000</b>
BP Improvement (to Jul 2014)	15,000	+11%	1,650	<b>46</b>	<b>\$1,242,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	15,000	80%	12,000	<b>334</b>	<b>\$9,018,000</b>

**Costs based on:**

Event cost	\$15,000 each
Subsequent 5-yr cost	\$12,000 each
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$27,000 each</b>



# Clinical Staff Engagement

---

## Training

- Clinical Services “Kick-Off” meeting Dec. 2013
- BP training, competency assessment & re-training

## Tools

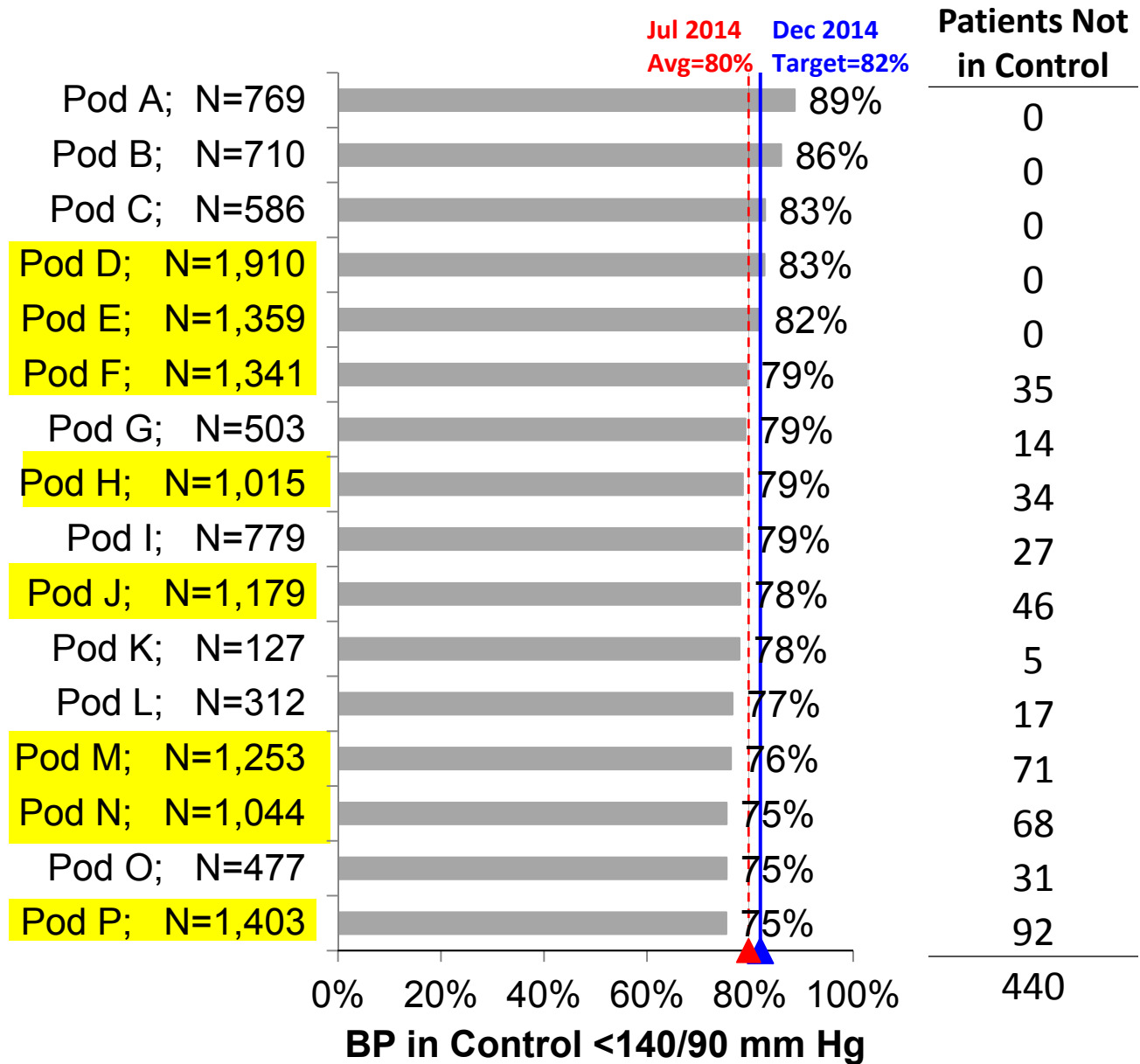
- BP Point-of-Care (POC) Triage tool
- Monthly list of patients not yet at BP goal
- Pod workflow for patient outreach and f/u appointments

## Monitoring

- Unblinded monthly reporting by pod
- BP competency tied to continued employment

# Primary Care BP in Control, by Pod, Jul 2014

N=14,767 unique patients



# POC Triage Tool



## Blood Pressure Follow-up Interventions

**Recommendation:** To provide safe care for patients of SMG, blood pressures will be taken on all patients, including those patients being seen in non-primary care areas.

### Recommended BP interventions for adult patients without acute end organ damage

The following are guidelines for those patients with elevated blood pressure (includes patients with and without existing diagnosis of HTN).

- If patient's BP is elevated, please have patient sit for 5 minutes and repeat BP.
- If the BP remains elevated, staff member will notify physician, prior to implementing any of the following scenarios.
- If the appointment provider treats hypertension, he/she should initiate or modify treatment based on the SMG hypertension treatment algorithm.

SYSTOLIC	DIASTOLIC	INTERVENTION
>220 OR	>120	Requires urgent evaluation. Send pt to SMG UCC or ER (depending on office location). Communicate referral to receiving physician.
>180 OR	>110	Have the patient wait in the office and a licensed clinical staff will call the PCP or treating physician for guidance. If the patient has no PCP, then refer within SMG as a new patient interval follow up. If after normal office hours, and patient is clinically stable, either call the PCP or treating physician the following morning, or assure that the patient has called for follow up appointment.
>160 OR	>100	Ask the patient to schedule a follow up with their PCP within 2 weeks. If SMG PCP, and scheduling is permissible, then schedule the appointment for the patient.
>140 OR	>90	If BP is not at patient's goal, ask the patient to schedule a follow up with their PCP within 1 month. If SMG PCP, and scheduling is permissible, then schedule the appointment for the patient.



# Patient Engagement

---

## In-office Engagement

- Posters in all exam rooms reinforce BP technique
- POC patient self-management tool

## BP Awareness Campaign

- Electronic & mailed newsletters
- Expert interviews & podcasts
- Public lectures
- Social media
- Video streaming
- Website postings





# Exam Room Poster



## Whether at Home or in the Office, Correct Blood Pressure Technique is Important

- Wait until you have been seated for five minutes prior to taking blood pressure.
- Use the right sized cuff on a bare arm.
- Place arm at heart level with palm of hand upright.
- Have back supported and legs uncrossed with feet flat on the floor.
- Avoid talking while blood pressure is being taken.
- Record exact numbers.





# Self-Management Tool

## High Blood Pressure How am I doing?



**Blood Pressure Goals**

Systolic (upper number) 139 or less  
Diastolic (lower number) 89 or less

**My Blood Pressure**

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Systolic (upper number) \_\_\_\_\_

Diastolic (lower number) \_\_\_\_\_

**High blood pressure may affect you:**

- ✓ **Kidneys** - increases your risk of kidney failure and need for dialysis
- ✓ **Heart** - increases your risk of heart attacks and heart failure
- ✓ **Brain** - increases your risk of strokes

**Keeping your blood pressure under control will keep you healthy and prevent complications**

### Lifestyle Modifications Chart

Modification	Recommendation	My personal goals
<b>Weight reduction</b>	Maintain normal body weight (body mass index 18.5 - 24.9 kg/m)	
<b>Adopt DASH* eating plan</b>	Consume a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and lowfat dairy products with a reduced content of saturated total fat	
<b>Dietary sodium reduction</b>	Reduce dietary sodium intake to no more than 2.4 g sodium or 6 g sodium chloride per day. If patient ≥ 51 years old, recommended is no more than 1.5 g sodium per day.	
<b>Physical activity</b>	Engage in regular aerobic physical activity such as brisk walking (at least 30 minutes per day, most days of the week which may be broken into shorter time intervals such as 10 minutes each of moderate or vigorous effort)	
<b>Smoking Cessation</b>	Complete smoking cessation is recommended. Discuss nicotine replacement products with your physician	
<b>Moderation of alcohol consumption</b>	Limit consumption to no more than 2 drinks (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	

\*DASH - Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension





Laura Balsamini, Pharm D, BCPS  
*Director, Pharmacy Services*





# Two Theme Approach

---

## Engage stakeholders

- Physicians, APNs & PAs
- Clinical Staff
- Patients

## Reduce variation

- Medication profiles
- Accurate BP measurement
- Team-based care



# Reduce Variation

---

## Medication Profiles

- Compared baseline medications for Better vs. Worse groups
- Analyze prescribing patterns & provide feedback
- Compare providers with high vs. low BP control rates
- Review patient medication adherence & daily pill burden

## Next Steps

- Compare medication algorithm adherence to BP control rates
- Measure impact of therapeutic inertia on BP control rates



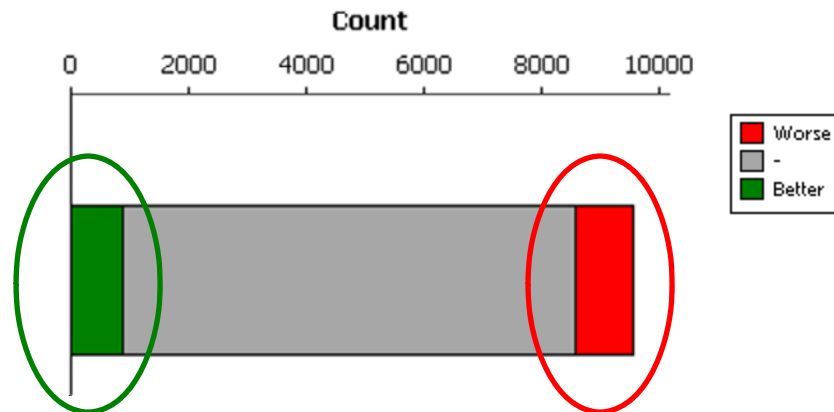
# Better and Worse Patients

## Grouping

2 BP readings with 20-point change in systolic or diastolic BP over 12 months

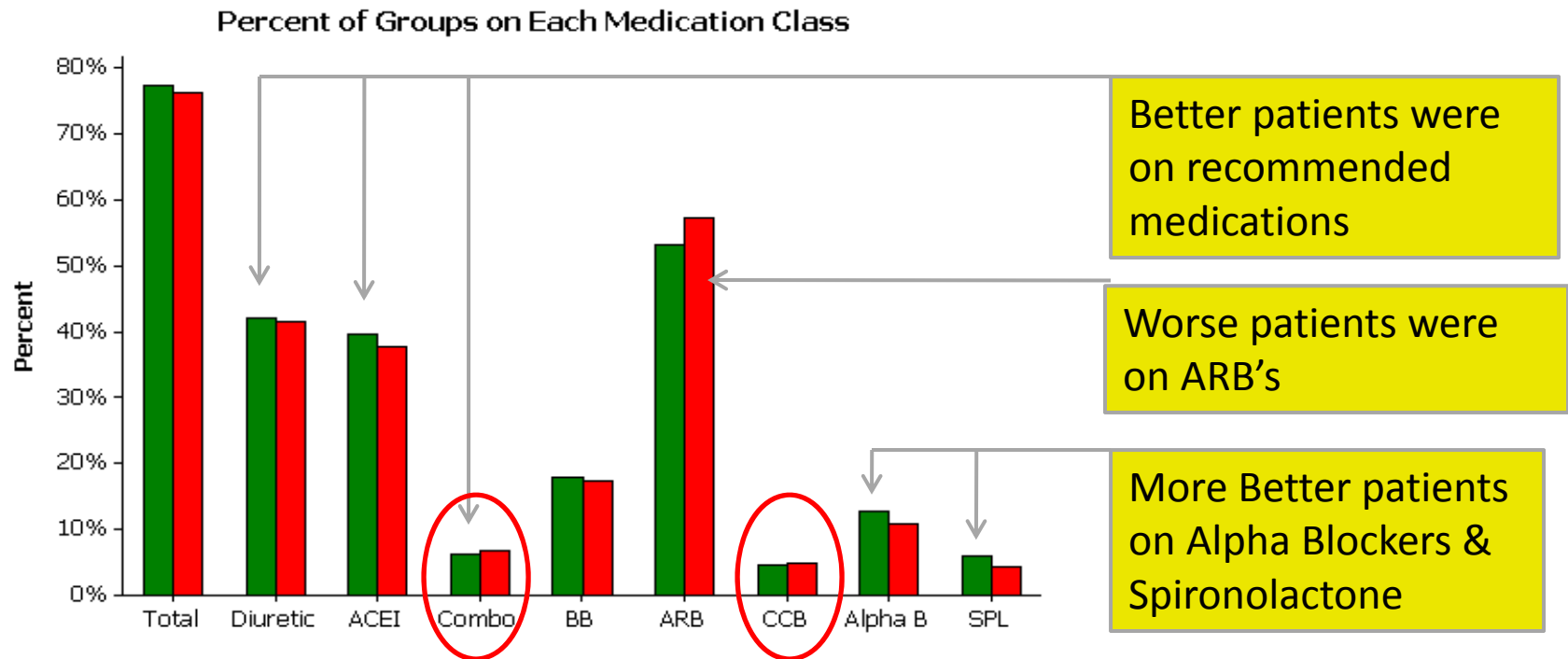
## Total Patients

- 890 patients are **Better**
- 971 patients are **Worse**
- 7691 are stable



# Differences between Patient Groups:

## Better vs. Worse



- Equal proportion of both groups on active medications
- ACEI/ Diuretic combo underutilized
- Calcium Channel Blockers underutilized



# Takeaways

---

## Steps that facilitate BP in control

- Treat early w/ single *combo* pill. If not at goal in 4 weeks add med from different class
- Ensure timely f/u visit after medication changes

## Barriers to BP in control

- Treat w/ single agent & slow to add second agent
- Lack of available electronic medication algorithm @ POC
- Lack of staff to outreach to patients and schedule f/u visits





Deborah A. Molina, MPA, MBA  
*Manager, Quality*





# Reduce Variation

---

## Accurate BP Measurement

- Direct staff trained in BP accuracy
- Proper technique posted in all offices
- Education for newly hired MAs and RNs
- BP competency assessed for all staff & tied to continued employment
- Re-training by nurse educator or supervisor
- Random observations (spot checks)
- Workflow supports discrete data capture of BP
- Statistical analysis for bias to zero



# Reduce Variation

---

## Team-based Care

### Strengths: Standardization

- Timeframe for f/u & when indicated
- Workflow supports BP POC triage & patient outreach
- Ongoing BP measurement competency program
- Use of medication algorithm

### Weaknesses: Variation

- Use of RN f/u visits
- Level of staff time allocated to outreach to patients
- Prescribing patterns



# Key Success Factors

---

Engage stakeholders

Reduce variation

- Medication profiles
- Team-based care

Remove barriers

Keep eye on the ultimate goal

- Protect patients from avoidable harms
- Deliver high quality care at lower cost



# Significance of Our Story

---

Our rapid success in improving BP control rates shows what can be achieved in a short time if you have strong stakeholder engagement and a well thought out plan like *Measure Up/Pressure Down*.





# Contact Information

---

Deborah A. Molina, MPA, MBA



*Manager, Quality*

Summit Medical Group

908-277-8746

dmolina@smgnj.com