ACP does not support NQF 0018 for several reasons. The measure is not aligned with the Eighth Joint National Committee (JNC-8) guideline on hypertension management recommending higher systolic blood pressure thresholds in patients older than 60 years. Additionally, studies have shown that blood pressures measured in the clinical setting are often higher than blood pressures measured in the ambulatory (home) setting. Requiring the 140/90 threshold in the clinic setting for all frail elderly patients or those with comorbidities or limited life-expectancy could result in harm. Moreover, the numerator identifies the representative blood pressure from a single reading, which could precede an inaccurate diagnosis. Averaging the results of two or three readings may improve the diagnosis accuracy and prevent overtreatment. The measure does not take into account appropriate treatment.

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