

## The American Heart Association's *Get With The Guidelines* Web-Based Data Collection Tool

### What is the American Heart Association's *Get With The Guidelines* Program?

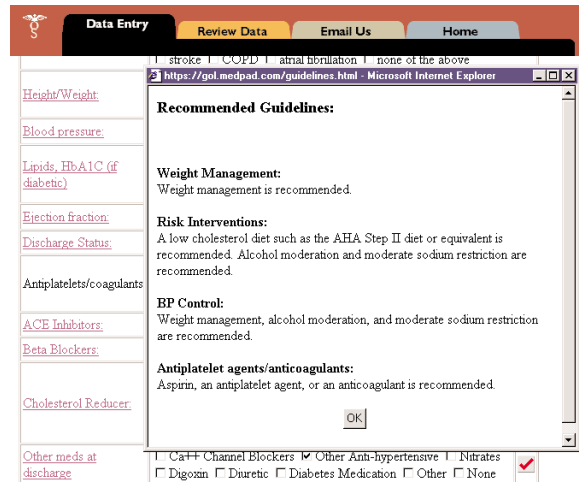
*Get With The Guidelines* (GWTG) is an American Heart Association (AHA) hospital-based discharge program for coronary patients to ensure that they are discharged on appropriate medications and with risk modification counseling. The program is based on the AHA's Comprehensive Risk Reduction Guidelines for Patients with Coronary and Other Vascular Disease. A key component of this continuous quality improvement program is to monitor progress through data measurement.

### What is the AHA's Data Tool?

The American Heart Association's Data Tool is an online, interactive assessment and reporting system that assists in the implementation of the GWTG program. It does this by providing patient-specific guidelines information and enabling each institution to track its adherence to the guidelines individually and against the AHA's national benchmarks over time. This Web-based tool is an important part of implementing the *Get With The Guidelines* Program.

### What are the features of the Data Tool?

The AHA Data Tool is an easy-to-use, one-page discharge form that requires minimal input but provides a powerful set of features to meet clinical, quality, accreditation and research needs. These features include the ability to:



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the AHA Data Tool interface. The browser address bar shows the URL: <https://gwtg.medpad.com/guidelines.html>. The page title is "Data Entry". The browser window shows a list of recommended guidelines for a patient. The guidelines are:

- Recommended Guidelines:**
- Weight Management:** Weight management is recommended.
- Risk Interventions:** A low cholesterol diet such as the AHA Step II diet or equivalent is recommended. Alcohol moderation and moderate sodium restriction are recommended.
- BP Control:** Weight management, alcohol moderation, and moderate sodium restriction are recommended.
- Antiplatelet agents/anticoagulants:** Aspirin, an antiplatelet agent, or an anticoagulant is recommended.

At the bottom of the guidelines list, there is an "OK" button. Below the guidelines list, there are checkboxes for "C+H Channel Blockers", "Other Anti-hypertensive", "Nitrates", "Digoxin", "Diuretic", "Diabetes Medication", "Other", and "None". The "Other" checkbox is checked.

#### Interactive guidelines customized to the patient

- Access real-time hospital-specific and aggregate benchmarking reports that can be printed or incorporated in presentations.
- Check the most current guidelines customized to the patient at hand.
- Generate automated patient notes.
- Fax letters to referring physicians.
- Add custom data fields.
- Download data on-demand.
- Transmit data to third parties including JCAHO.

New features are continuously being added based on user feedback.

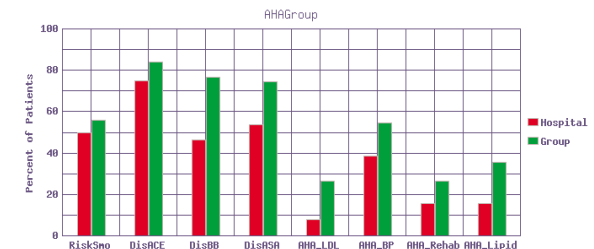
### How is the AHA Web-Based Data Tool being used by hospitals?

The AHA Data Tool is designed to fit into each hospital's individual care process. Whether used as a point-of-care instrument to provide interactive guidelines, integrated into the discharge process as a final checklist and note generator, or used for QA chart review, implementation can be customized to fit existing workflow. The tool is designed to be flexible so it will meet multiple needs in your institution — from participating in the AHA GWTG program, to improving patient information and communication with referring physicians, to transmitting information to third parties such as JCAHO for ORYX requirements.



#### AHA Patients Receiving Intervention

Period: 1Q01



#### Real-time benchmarking reports

### One Platform — Multiple Programs

The American Heart Association is developing additional modules that will utilize the same Web platform. By registering as a member on our Web site, you will be notified as new modules are introduced.

## The *Get With The Guidelines*

**Data Collection Tool is a simple and effective means to implement the *Get With The Guidelines* continuous quality improvement program in an interactive and measurable manner.**

### Who manages the system?

The American Heart Association has partnered with Outcome Sciences, Inc., an information services company that specializes in Web-based data management, to provide the infrastructure for the Data Tool and other AHA programs.

### Security, Privacy and Access

Data is stored and maintained in a specialized and secure facility. The program complies with federal privacy and security standards. All data is de-identified and all site information is confidential. Sites retain ownership of their data and have ongoing access to view records and reports or to download their own data.

### Other Capabilities

For hospitals with existing measurement systems, the AHA Data Tool also provides a means to submit aggregate-level data.

### System Requirements

- Computer with 90MHZ processor or above
- Standard Web-browser (Internet Explorer 4.0, Netscape 4.0 or higher)
- Any Internet connection

### How can I get started?

- Contact Pat Tyler, AHA Regional Director, by calling 949-885-1520 or send an e-mail to [patriciat@heart.org](mailto:patriciat@heart.org)
- Call Outcome Sciences toll-free at 888-526-6700 or send an e-mail to [gwtg@outcomesciences.com](mailto:gwtg@outcomesciences.com)
- Visit the AHA Web site at [www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org), and follow the links to *Get With The Guidelines*.



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# GET WITH THE GUIDELINES<sup>SM</sup>

## Web-Based Data Collection Tool

powered by Outcome Sciences, Inc.

