

New recommendations (1)

Cardiovascular imaging for assessment of ASCVD risk

Assessment of arterial (carotid and/or femoral) plaque burden on arterial ultrasonography should be considered as a risk modifier in individuals at low or moderate risk.

Cardiovascular imaging for assessment of ASCVD risk

CAC score assessment with CT may be considered as a risk modifier in the CV risk assessment of asymptomatic individuals at low or moderate risk.

Lipid analyses for CVD risk estimation

Lp(a) measurement should be considered at least once in each adult person's lifetime to identify those with very high inherited Lp(a) levels >180 mg/dL (>430 nmol/L) who may have a lifetime risk of ASCVD equivalent to the risk associated with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia.

New recommendations (2)

Drug treatments of patients with hypertriglyceridaemia

In high-risk (or above) patients with TG between 1.5 and 5.6 mmol/L (135 - 499 mg/dL) despite statin treatment, n-3 PUFAs (icosapent ethyl 2 x 2g/day) should be considered in combination with statins.

Treatment of patients with heterozygous FH

In primary prevention, for individuals with FH at very-high risk, an LDL-C reduction of $\geq 50\%$ from baseline and an LDL-C goal of < 1.4 mmol/L (< 55 mg/dL) should be considered.

Treatment of dyslipidaemias in older people

Treatment with statins is recommended for primary prevention, according to the level of risk, in older people aged ≤ 75 .

Treatment of dyslipidaemias in older people

Initiation of statin treatment for primary prevention in older people aged > 75 may be considered, if at high risk or above.

Changes in recommendations (1)

2016

Lipid analyses for CVD risk estimation

ApoB should be considered as an alternative risk marker whenever available, especially in individuals with high TG.

2019

Lipid analyses for CVD risk estimation

ApoB analysis is recommended for risk assessment, particularly in people with high TG, DM, obesity or metabolic syndrome, or very low LDL-C. It can be used as an alternative to LDL-C, if available, as the primary measurement for screening, diagnosis, and management, and may be preferred over non-HDL-C in people with high TG, DM, obesity, or very low LDL-C.

Changes in recommendations (2)

2016	2019
Pharmacological LDL-C lowering	Pharmacological LDL-C lowering
If the LDL goal is not reached, statin combination with a cholesterol absorption inhibitor should be considered.	If the goals are not achieved with the maximum tolerated dose of statin, combination with ezetimibe is recommended.

Changes in recommendations (3)

2016	2019
Pharmacological LDL-C lowering	Pharmacological LDL-C lowering
In patients at very-high risk, with persistent high LDL-C despite treatment with maximal tolerated statin dose, in combination with ezetimibe or in patients with statin intolerance, a PCSK9 inhibitor may be considered.	<p>For secondary prevention, patients at very-high risk not achieving their goal on a maximum tolerated dose of statin and ezetimibe, a combination with a PCSK9 inhibitor is recommended.</p> <p>For very-high-risk FH patients (that is, with ASCVD or with another major risk factor) who do not achieve their goals on a maximum tolerated dose of statin and ezetimibe, a combination with a PCSK9 inhibitor is recommended.</p>

Changes in recommendations (4)

2016	2019
Drug treatments of hypertriglyceridaemia	Drug treatments of hypertriglyceridaemia
Statin treatment may be considered as the first drug of choice for reducing CVD risk in high-risk individuals with hypertriglyceridaemia.	Statin treatment is recommended as the first drug of choice for reducing CVD risk in high-risk individuals with hypertriglyceridaemia [TG >2.3 mmol/L (200 mg/dL)].

Changes in recommendations (5)

2016

Treatment of patients with heterozygous FH

Treatment should be considered to aim at reaching an LDL-C <2.6 mmol/L (<100 mg/dL) or in the presence of CVD <1.8 mmol/L (<70 mg/dL). If targets cannot be reached, maximal reduction of LDL-C should be considered using appropriate drug combinations.

2019

Treatment of patients with heterozygous FH

For FH patients with ASCVD who are at very-high risk, treatment to achieve at least a 50% reduction from baseline and an LDL-C <1.4 mmol/L (<55 mg/dL) is recommended. If goals cannot be achieved, a drug combination is recommended.

Changes in recommendations (7)

2016

Treatment of dyslipidaemias in older adults

Since older people often have comorbidities and have altered pharmacokinetics, lipid-lowering medication should be started at a lower dose and then titrated with caution to achieve target lipid levels that are the same as in younger people.

2019

Treatment of dyslipidaemias in older adults

It is recommended that the statin is started at a low dose if there is significant renal impairment and/or the potential for drug interactions, and then titrated upwards to achieve LDL-C treatment goals.

Changes in recommendations (8)

2016	2019
Lipid-lowering therapy in patients with ACS	Lipid-lowering therapy in patients with ACS
If the LDL-C target is not reached with the highest tolerated statin dose and/or ezetimibe, PCSK9 inhibitors may be considered on top of lipid-lowering therapy; or alone or in combination with ezetimibe in statin-intolerant patients or in whom a statin is contraindicated.	If the LDL-C goal is not achieved after 4 - 6 weeks despite maximal tolerated statin therapy and ezetimibe, addition of a PCSK9 inhibitor is recommended.

Cardiovascular risk categories (1)

Very-high-risk

People with any of the following:

Documented ASCVD, either clinical or unequivocal on imaging.

Documented ASCVD includes previous ACS (MI or unstable angina), stable angina, coronary revascularisation (PCI, CABG and other arterial revascularization procedures), stroke and TIA, and peripheral arterial disease. Unequivocally documented ASCVD on imaging includes those findings that are known to be predictive of clinical events, such as significant plaque on coronary angiography or CT scan (multivessel coronary disease with two major epicardial arteries having >50% stenosis) or on carotid ultrasound.

DM with target organ damage, or at least three major risk factors, or early onset of T1DM of long duration (>20 years).

(>20 years). Severe CKD (eGFR <30 mL/min/1.73m²).

A calculated SCORE $\geq 10\%$ for 10-year risk of fatal CVD.

FH with ASCVD or with another major risk factor.

Cardiovascular risk categories (2)

High-risk	<p>People with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Markedly elevated single risk factors, in particular TC >8 mmol/L (>310 mg/dL), LDL-C >4.9 mmol/L (>190 mg/dL), or BP \geq180/110mmHg.Patients with FH without other major risk factors.Patients with DM without target organ damage*, with DM duration \geq10 years or another additional risk factors.Moderate CKD (eGFR 30–59 mL/min/1.73m²).A calculated SCORE \geq5% and <10% for 10-year risk of fatal CVD.
Moderate-risk	<p>Young patients (T1DM <35 years; T2DM <50 years) with DM duration <10 years, without other risk factors. Calculated SCORE \geq1% and <5% for 10-year risk of fatal CVD.</p>
Low-risk	<p>Calculated SCORE <1% for 10-year risk of fatal CVD.</p>

*Target organ damage is defined as microalbuminuria, retinopathy or neuropathy

Recommendations for cardiovascular imaging for risk assessment of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease

Recommendations	Class	Level
Arterial (carotid and/or femoral) plaque burden on ultrasonography should be considered as a risk modifier in individuals at low or moderate risk.	IIa	B
CAC score assessment with CT may be considered as a risk modifier in the CV risk assessment of asymptomatic individuals at low or moderate risk.	IIb	B

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Intervention strategies as a function of total cardiovascular risk and untreated low-density lipoprotein cholesterol levels

Total CV risk (SCORE) %		Untreated LDL-C levels					
		<1.4 mmol/L (55 mg/dL)	1.4 to <1.8 mmol/L (55 to <70 mg/dL)	1.8 to <2.6 mmol/L (70 to <100 mg/dL)	2.6 to <3.0 mmol/L (100 to <116 mg/dL)	3.0 to <4.9 mmol/L (116 to <190 mg/dL)	≥4.9 mmol/L (≥ 190 mg/dL)
Primary Prevention	<1 low-risk	Lifestyle advice	Lifestyle advice	Lifestyle advice	Lifestyle advice	Lifestyle intervention, consider adding drug if uncontrolled	Lifestyle intervention and concomitant drug intervention
	Class ^a /Level ^b	I/C	I/C	I/C	I/C	IIa/A	IIa/A
	≥1 to <5, or moderate risk	Lifestyle advice	Lifestyle advice	Lifestyle advice	Lifestyle intervention, consider adding drug if uncontrolled	Lifestyle intervention, consider adding drug if uncontrolled	Lifestyle intervention and concomitant drug intervention
	Class ^a /Level ^b	I/C	I/C	IIa/A	IIa/A	IIa/A	IIa/A
	≥5 to <10, or high-risk	Lifestyle advice	Lifestyle advice	Lifestyle intervention, consider adding drug if uncontrolled	Lifestyle intervention and concomitant drug intervention	Lifestyle intervention and concomitant drug intervention	Lifestyle intervention and concomitant drug intervention
	Class ^a /Level ^b	IIa/A	IIa/A	IIa/A	I/A	I/A	I/A
≥10, or at very-high risk due to a risk condition	Lifestyle advice	Lifestyle intervention, consider adding drug if uncontrolled	Lifestyle intervention and concomitant drug intervention	Lifestyle intervention and concomitant drug intervention	Lifestyle intervention and concomitant drug intervention	Lifestyle intervention and concomitant drug intervention	
Class ^a /Level ^b	IIa/B	IIa/A	I/A	I/A	I/A	I/A	
Secondary Prevention	Very-high risk	Lifestyle intervention, consider adding drug if uncontrolled	Lifestyle intervention and concomitant drug intervention	Lifestyle intervention and concomitant drug intervention	Lifestyle intervention and concomitant drug intervention	Lifestyle intervention and concomitant drug intervention	Lifestyle intervention and concomitant drug intervention
	Class ^a /Level ^b	IIa/A	I/A	I/A	I/A	I/A	I/A

Recommendations for lipid analyses for cardiovascular disease risk estimation (3)

Recommendations	Class	Level
Lp(a) measurement should be considered at least once in each adult person's lifetime to identify those with very high inherited Lp(a) levels >180 mg/dL (>430 nmol/L) who may have a lifetime risk of ASCVD equivalent to the risk associated with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia.	IIa	C
Lp(a) should be considered in selected patients with a family history of premature CVD, and for reclassification in people who are borderline between moderate and high-risk.	IIa	C

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Treatment targets and goals for cardiovascular disease prevention (2)

LDL-C

Very-high-risk in primary or secondary prevention

A therapeutic regimen that achieves at least a 50% LDL-C reduction from baseline^b and an LDL-C goal of <1.4mmol/L (<55 mg/dL).

No current statin use: this is likely to require high-intensity LDL-lowering therapy.

Current LDL-lowering treatment: an increased treatment intensity is required.

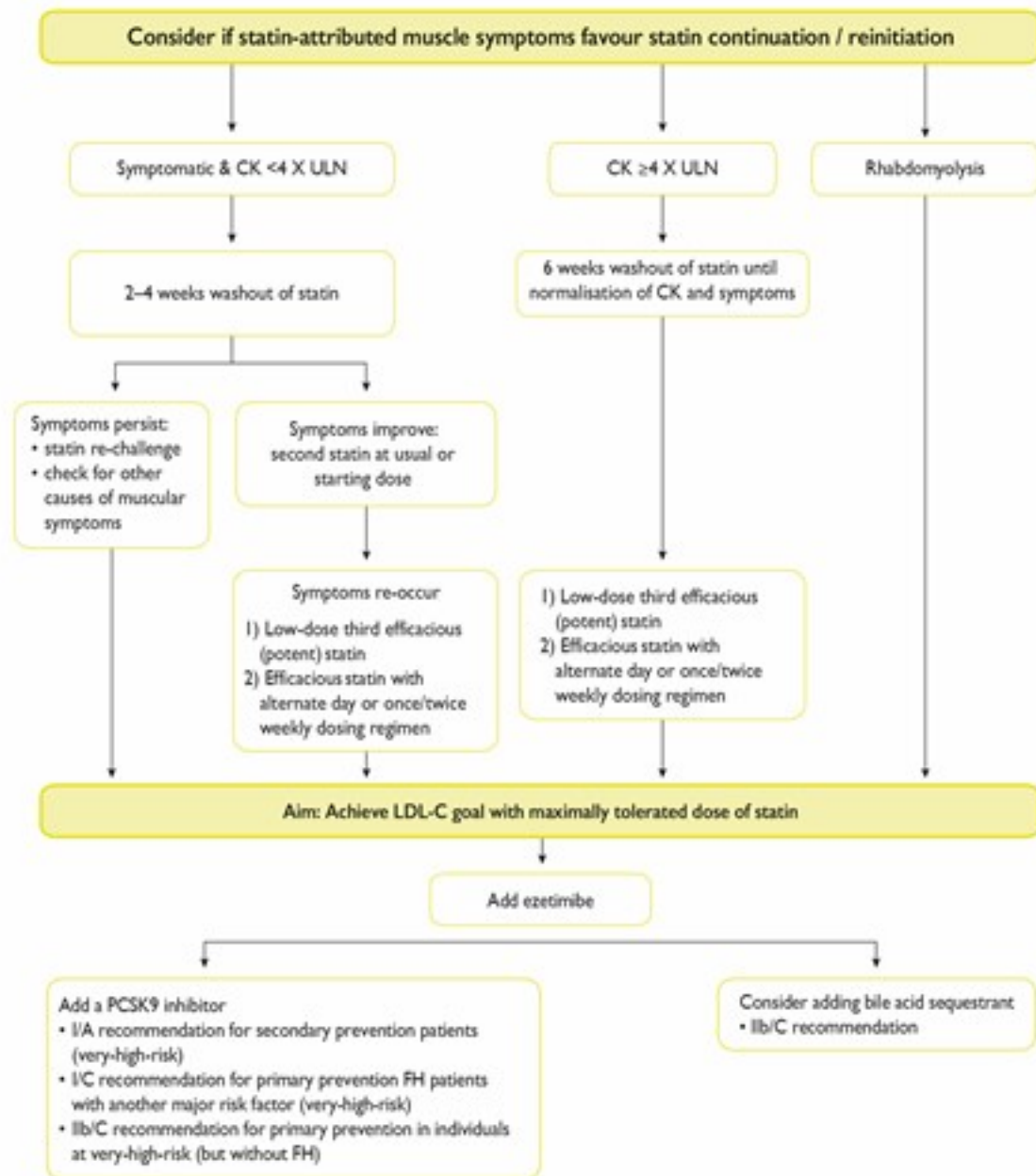
High risk: A therapeutic regimen that achieves at least a 50% LDL-C reduction from baseline^b and an LDL-C goal of <1.8mmol/L (<70 mg/dL).

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^bThe term 'baseline' refers to the LDL-C level in a person not taking any lipid lowering medication, or to the extrapolated baseline value for those who are on current treatment.

Treatment targets and goals for cardiovascular disease prevention (3)

LDL-C	Moderate risk: A goal of <2.6 mmol/L (<100 mg/dL). Low risk: A goal of <3.0 mmol/L (<116 mg/dL)
Non-HDL-C	Non-HDL-C secondary goals are <2.2, 2.6 and 3.4 mmol/L (<85, 100 and 130 mg/dL) for very-high-, high- and moderate-risk people, respectively.
Apolipoprotein B	ApoB secondary goals are <65, 80 and 100 mg/dL for very-high-, high- and moderate-risk people, respectively.
Triglycerides	No goal but <1.7 mmol/L (<150 mg/dL) indicates lower risk and higher levels indicate a need to look for other risk factors.
Diabetes	HbA1c: <7% (<53 mmol/mol).

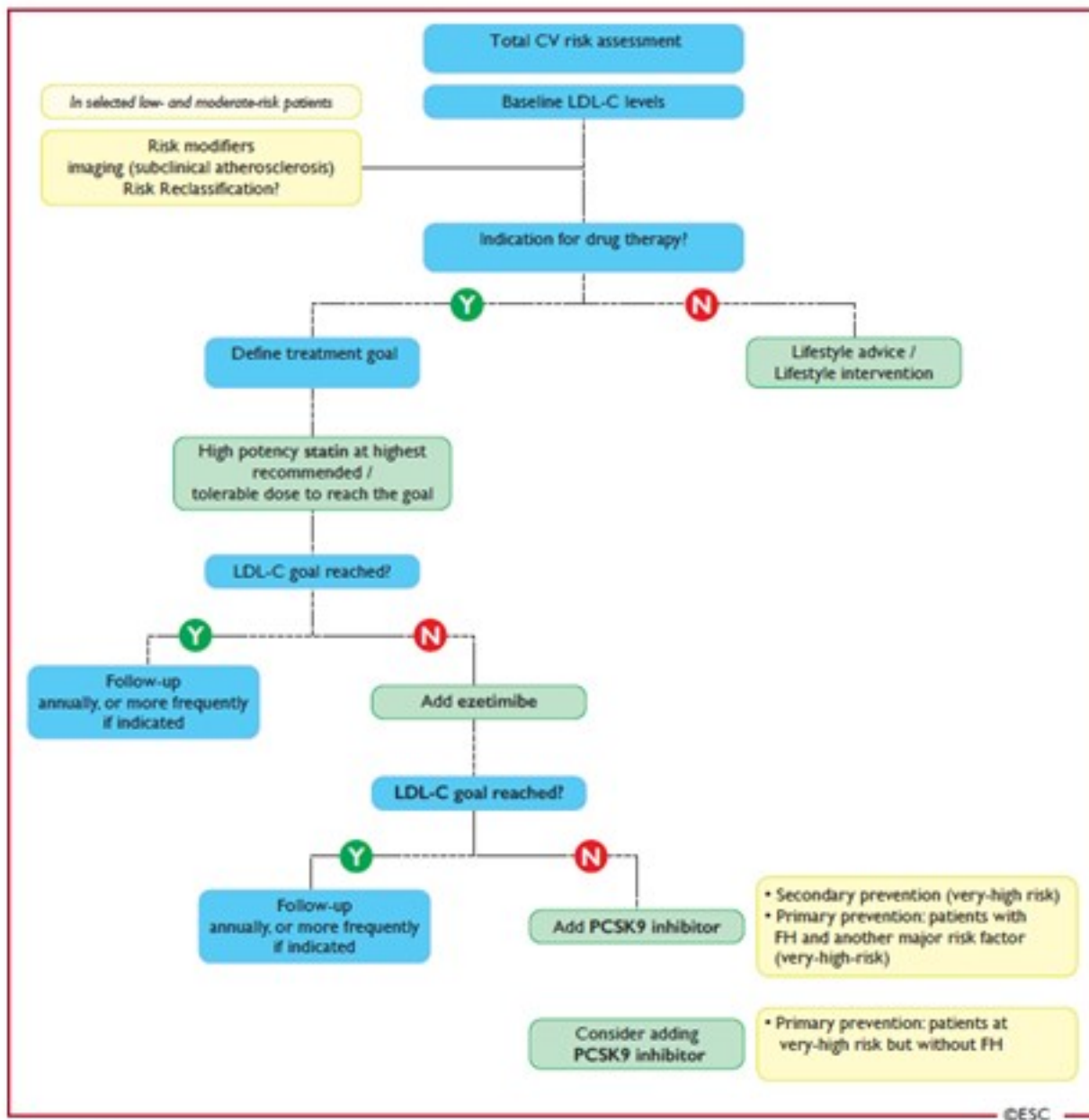


Algorithm for treatment of muscular symptoms during statin treatment

Recommendations for pharmacological low-density lipoprotein cholesterol lowering (1)

Recommendations	Class	Level
It is recommended to prescribe a high-intensity statin up to the highest tolerated dose to reach the goals ^c set for the specific level of risk.	I	A
If the goals ^c are not achieved with the maximum tolerated dose of statin, combination with ezetimibe is recommended.	I	B
For primary prevention patients at very-high risk, but without FH, if the LDL-C goal is not achieved on a maximum tolerated dose of statin and ezetimibe, a combination with a PCSK9 inhibitor may be considered.	IIb	C

^c For definitions see Full Text.



Central Illustration Lower panel: Treatment algorithm for pharmacological LDL-C lowering

Recommendations for drug treatments of patients with hypertriglyceridaemia (1)

Recommendations	Class	Level
Statin treatment is recommended as the first drug of choice for reducing CVD risk in high-risk individuals with hypertriglyceridaemia (TG >2.3 mmol/L (>200 mg/dL)).	I	B
In high-risk (or above) patients with TG between 1.5 and 5.6 mmol/L (135–499 mg/dL) despite statin treatment, n-3 PUFAs (icosapent ethyl 2 x 2 g/day) should be considered in combination with statin.	Ia	B

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