



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

JANE SWIFT
GOVERNOR

WILLIAM D. O'LEARY
SECRETARY

HOWARD K. KOH, MD, MPH
COMMISSIONER

February 2002

Dear Medical Director or Practice Manager:

The Massachusetts Cardiovascular Health Coalition is facilitating the development of a statewide cardiovascular health plan to reduce premature death from heart attack and stroke. The goal of the statewide plan is to promote policy and system changes in the health care system, in communities, workplaces and schools. The first step in the healthcare setting is to assess existing systems and policies affecting both primary risk factors (physical inactivity, poor nutrition and tobacco use) and secondary risk factors (hypertension and hypercholesterolemia) for cardiovascular disease. The results of this survey will directly influence how the Coalition addresses these issues in the Massachusetts Cardiovascular Health Plan.

Attached is a survey to evaluate the cardiovascular care systems and policies within your practice. Please complete the survey and return it in the enclosed stamped envelope *by Friday, March 15, 2002*. If your completed survey is not returned you may receive a call from a representative of the Ulrich Research Services to schedule a time to complete the survey over the telephone. All responses will be kept completely confidential.

If you would like further information on this project or have questions regarding the survey, please contact Kathy Foell at kathy.foell@state.ma.us or 617-624-5469. We thank you for your assistance in this effort and look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

Howard K. Koh, MD, MPH
Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Randolph R. Peto, MD, MPH
Medical Director for Quality Improvement
Massachusetts Peer Review Organization

Gisele Thornhill, MD, MPH
Director of Clinical Health Affairs
Massachusetts League of
Health Centers

David Chatel
Senior Vice President
Community Health Marketing, Community
Programs and Advocacy
American Heart Association
New England Affiliate