

# International Society of Hypertension release global practice guidelines

May 6 2020

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High blood pressure (hypertension) is the leading cause of death in the world affecting more than 1.4 billion people and accounting for more than 28,000 deaths each day. Today, the International Society of Hypertension (ISH) has released the "ISH 2020 Global Hypertension Practice Guidelines" to help reduce the burden of this significant health

threat affecting people from every country and socio-economic group.

Developed by a world-wide panel of leading [hypertension](#) specialists from across the world, including Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) researcher Richard Wainford, Ph.D., the guidelines outline the best approaches to the management of hypertension and provide simple, clear recommendations for [health professionals](#) and those affected by the condition.

According to the ISH these are the first guidelines developed specifically for the management of hypertension regardless of population or resources. This is particularly important because approximately 72 percent of the global hypertensive population reside in low and middle income countries. "We believe these simplified guidelines will be of use globally and may be of most use in countries that do not have their own national hypertension practice guidelines," said Wainford, associate professor of pharmacology and medicine at BUSM.

The goal is for the guidelines to be used globally versus a [specific region](#) and to be concise, simplified and easy to use by clinicians, nurses and community health workers. "The inclusion of optimal and essential treatment paradigms throughout the guidelines attempts to address the issue that in resource poor settings it may not be possible to access cutting-edge [medical equipment](#) and technology—however it is still possible to address hypertension prevalence and treatment," he added.

It has been seven years since the International Society of Hypertension issued global treatment guidelines. Wainford and the ISH Hypertension Guideline Committee hope that by improving the global awareness of hypertension and providing guidance in a simple easy to reference format, significant progress can be made in reducing the global public health burden of hypertension.

**More information:** Thomas Unger et al, 2020 International Society of Hypertension global hypertension practice guidelines, *Journal of Hypertension* (2020). [DOI: 10.1097/HJH.0000000000002453](https://doi.org/10.1097/HJH.0000000000002453)

Provided by Boston University School of Medicine

Citation: International Society of Hypertension release global practice guidelines (2020, May 6) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-05-international-society-hypertension-global-guidelines.html>

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