Keeping your blood pressure under control will help protect your kidneys, heart, brain and other organs. Choose one of these areas to improve or to help lower your blood pressure.

**Food** – Less salt, less fast food, and less processed food (like canned foods), but more fruits, vegetables, beans, and whole grains can help control blood pressure.

**Activity** – Moving around more helps lower blood pressure.

**Coping** – Finding healthy ways to cope with stress can help prevent high blood pressure.

**Sleep** – 6 to 9 hours per night helps with blood pressure control.

**Smoking** – Quit smoking to help lower blood pressure.

**Medications** – Remembering to take medications on time helps control blood pressure.
PLANK 5

TOOL: “How Am I Doing?” Blood Pressure Management Plan (Henry Ford Health System)

Choose One Goal to Work on This Month

Food
- I will eat less fast food and frozen meals.
- I will rinse my canned beans, vegetables, and tuna to get salty water off.
- I will cook with more herbs, spices, vinegars and lemon juice for flavor.
- I will eat more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.
- I will reduce my portions by ¼ or ½ at each meal.
- I will drink less pop and alcohol by drinking more water.

Activity
- I will be more active by __________________________(write in activity).
- I will find a buddy to work out or walk with most days of the week.

Sleep
- I will get 7 to 9 hours of sleep at night by going to bed earlier.

Smoking
- I will quit smoking or reduce the number of cigarettes I smoke.

Medication
- I will use a pill box to help me remember to take my medication(s).
- I will have a family or friend help me remember to take my medications.

Coping
- I will find a way to help me cope with stress such as going for a walk, listening to music, calling a friend, or writing in a journal.
- I will check my blood pressure and record my numbers every day.

or

- Write your own goal here: __________________________________________
  __________________________________________