Non-Adherence to Cardiovascular Drugs – So What?

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Appr. 18% initial (primary) medication non-adherence and appr. 50% of patients do not take medication as prescribed → “Drugs don't work in patients who don't take them” (C. Everett Koop, MD, former US Surgeon General). Non-adherence is a global threat (“pandemic”) – so what? Reduced adherence correlates with morbidity and mortality in patients with chronic (CV) diseases including CHF. Improving and sustaining appropriate medication adherence in patients with CV diseases (and polypharmacy) remains a challenge. Potentially successful interventions are complex and require a lifelong commitment. A multidisciplinary approach (primary and secondary cardiologist care, GP, and pharmacist) is promising.