HOW TO CONTROL CHOLESTEROL

UNDERSTAND CHOLESTEROL
Cholesterol is a fat-like substance that comes from two sources: FOOD and your BODY.

It is found in foods from animal sources only. It travels in the body by lipoproteins (LDL and HDL).

HDL = GOOD
High-density lipoprotein is known as “good” cholesterol.

LDL = BAD
Low-density lipoprotein is known as “bad” cholesterol.

HDL helps keep LDL from sticking to artery walls and reduces plaque buildup. This process can lower the risk of heart disease and stroke.

heart.org/cholesterol

EAT SMART
Eat a healthy diet of vegetables, fruits, whole grains, beans, legumes, nuts, plant-based proteins, lean animal proteins like fish and seafood.

Limit sugary foods and drinks, red or processed meats, salty foods, refined carbohydrates and highly processed foods.

MOVE MORE
Physical activity helps improve cholesterol levels.

KNOW YOUR FATS
The fats you eat can affect your cholesterol levels. Replace saturated fats with unsaturated fats.

NO NICOTINE
Smoking lowers good HDL cholesterol. It also raises your risk of heart disease.

TAKE MEDICATION AS DIRECTED
Your health care professional may prescribe statins or other medications to control your cholesterol levels.

TRIGLYCERIDES
The most common type of fat in the body.

TOTAL CHOLESTEROL
HDL level + LDL level + 1/5th of triglyceride level = total cholesterol level.

TRACK LEVELS
A health care professional can measure your blood cholesterol and help you understand what the levels mean in context of your overall heart health.

Track your cholesterol levels over time and take steps to reduce high cholesterol.

Check your heart disease risk with the Check. Change. Control. Calculator.

Learn more at heart.org/lifes8