

Table S1. Comparison of working correlation structures using QIC and QICC

Outcome	Correlation structure	QIC	QICC
SBP	Independent	1.248E7	1.248E7
	Exchangeable	1.385E7	1.249E7
	AR(1)	1.250E7	1.250E7
	Unstructured	1.250E7	1.250E7
DBP	Independent	4,282,002.431	4,281,928.544
	Exchangeable	4,285,782.651	4,285,733.455
	AR(1)	-1,139,086.780 ^{a)}	4,288,572.178
	Unstructured	4,285,094.222	4,285,047.258

Lower QIC and QICC values indicate better model fit.

QIC, quasi-likelihood under the independence model criterion; QICC, corrected QIC; SBP, systolic blood pressure; AR(1), autoregressive; DBP, diastolic blood pressure.

^{a)}The negative QIC value observed for the AR(1) model for diastolic blood pressure likely reflects numerical instability in the quasi-likelihood estimation and should be interpreted with caution. Therefore, QICC values were prioritized when comparing model fit across correlation structures. Across outcomes, QIC and QICC values were broadly comparable among correlation structures. The unstructured working correlation matrix was retained for the primary analyses to allow maximum flexibility in capturing within-individual correlation patterns across repeated measurements, particularly given the irregular spacing of follow-up visits and the observed instability of simpler correlation structures for DBP.