

Partner in Care Recognition Frequently Asked Questions

American College of Cardiology's (ACC) Heart Failure (HF) *Partner in Care* Recognition is the ACC's program recognizing outpatient providers who have a solid partnership with an ACC HF Accredited facility. These facilities build robust ongoing relationships with local and regional outpatient entities to ensure the highest level of care for patients diagnosed with HF.

ACC HF *Partner in Care* General Questions:

1. What agencies are eligible for HF *Partner in Care*?

The primary post-discharge outpatient HF provider(s) are eligible for HF *Partner in Care* working with the facility applying for HF Accreditation. Typical examples of such providers include a hospital-owned outpatient clinic or a physician practice that provides outpatient services abiding via a contractual agreement.

2. What is the cost for HF outpatient providers to participate in HF *Partner in Care*?

There is no direct fee to the HF outpatient provider to apply or receive recognition as an HF Partner in Care. The additional cost is deferred directly to the HF Accredited facility.

3. How can a HF outpatient provider apply?

The facility pursuing HF Accreditation with Outpatient Services Designation will list the outpatient provider(s) in their application in Essential Component (EC) EC9.M4 in the 'Comments' tab within their online Accreditation tool. The facility will be responsible for collaborating with the outpatient provider agency to complete the application. The completed application will be automatically sent to the facility's assigned Accreditation Review Specialist for review.

4. What is the review process for HF *Partner in Care* application submissions?

The Accreditation Review Specialist will validate that the outpatient provider(s) are actively participating in the facility HF Multidisciplinary Committee meetings (or equivalent) demonstrating data sharing, collaboration between in-patient and outpatient service lines, and process improvement opportunities to reach agreed upon goals for the overall HF program, and have processes in place to meet all required mandatory Essential Components as stipulated in EC9. If the charter, meeting minutes, or attendance grid (EC1.M2a, EC1.M2b, or EC1.M2c) do not support an ongoing collaborative relationship between the facility and outpatient provider, the HF *Partner in Care* recognition will not be awarded. The facility must keep these EC's current to maintain the *Partner in Care* recognition. If the facility and outpatient provider relationship ceases, communication must be sent to: accreditation@acc.org

5. How will outpatient providers be notified of their approved recognition?

A Customer Care representative will notify, via email, the facility pursuing HF Accreditation with Outpatient Services of their recognition. It is then the responsibility of the sponsoring facility to notify the outpatient provider(s) of this achievement.

6. How will outpatient providers receive this recognition?

ACC will provide the facility HF Coordinator with the HF *Partner in Care* recognition kit.

- The kit will include items such as: certificate of recognition, press release statements, social media graphics and messages, icons, and the HF *Partner in Care* seal for marketing.
- ACC will also promote this achievement through social media, Cardiology Magazine, and ACC's Quality Improvement for Institutions website and be included in the annual publication of U.S. News & World Report 'Best Hospitals' edition.

7. How long will the recognition be active?

The recognition will be active during the facility Accreditation period of three (3) years.

The "Anniversary Date" refers to the date that is 3 years from the facility initial Accreditation is granted. The *Partner in Care* expires on the anniversary date unless the facility application for renewal is received prior to the anniversary date.