



SOCIETY OF CARDIOVASCULAR  
PATIENT CARE

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AN INSTITUTE OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY

# Standardized Device Screening for Improved Patient Care Delivery and Outcomes

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## Background:

- Numerous clinical trials have demonstrated the benefits of Device Therapy (ICD, CRT, CRT-D) in the HFrEF patient population.
- In addition to GDMT, these devices are not only lifesaving but potentially life improving.
- Despite strong ACC/AHA guideline recommendations, adherence to these guidelines remain inconsistent and device implantation is vastly under utilized.
- Without of formal process in place to screen eligible patients, device implantation is sporadic and provider dependent.



## Methods:

- The Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care, an Institute of the American College of Cardiology is a not for profit process improvement organization that accredits hospitals in the care of the heart failure patient.
- HF accreditation through the Society is an operational model for facilities to plan and organize the delivery of care in a systematic model that supports evidence based guidelines and quality initiatives.
- Through a series of mandatory requirements, facilities are guided as to how to put the necessary processes in place to improve and standardize HF population management.
- One such mandatory item states that the facility has a process in place to screen patients for consideration for cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT) and/or implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) placement.



## Results:

- Of the 59 facilities that have pursued/achieved HF v2 accreditation, only 15% (9 hospitals) had a formal process in place to screen eligible patients for device therapy when they began their accreditation journey.
- Through accreditation, 100% were able to demonstrate implementation of this process at their facility.
- This was achieved at a variety of demographic settings: academic, private, urban, rural, community and tertiary facilities alike.
- Screening eligible patients is a necessary first step in the use of device therapy in this patient population and the reduction of HF patient mortality.



## Conclusion:

- Through standardized device screening, facilities' providers are guided to the most appropriate care pathway.
- With accurate screening and implantation of these devices there is implied improvement in patient care delivery and outcomes.
- Appropriate device therapy decreases the risk of sudden cardiac death, can increase reduced ejection fraction, reduce admissions and improve quality of life.
- The benefits of standardized device screening are both clinically and financially significant as the outcomes listed above are directly related to Value Based Purchasing scores, penalties, reimbursements and revenue.
- As evidenced by the lack of standardized care delivery noted in Baseline Gap Analysis, there is a clear need for guidance in the creation, implementation and maintained compliance of this process.
- Heart Failure Accreditation through the Society provides clear instruction based upon the science of guideline driven medical therapy and best practice.

# Questions

