



## Identifying Patients with Heart Failure (HF) in the Hospital

Consistent and accurate identification of HF patients in the hospital can be a challenge. Here are helpful strategies from the H2H Community to identify patients with HF prior to discharge. Identifying patients with HF in the hospital can ensure they receive the appropriate care they need and potentially prevent them from being unnecessarily readmitted.

### Strategies for Identifying HF Patients prior to Discharge

These approaches are useful for finding HF patients in the hospital, whether HF is their primary or secondary diagnosis.

#### What to look for

Common information “triggers” in a search for patients with HF in the hospital:

- Admission diagnosis codes for HF, AMI, shortness of breath, swelling, edema, fluid overload
- Secondary diagnosis codes for HF, shortness of breath
- History of HF or AMI
- Abnormal BNP or NT-proBNP levels
- Treatment with IV diuretics within the last 24 hours
- Chest x-ray showing HF or pulmonary edema
- Low ejection fraction (EF < 40% from echo)
- Treatment with spironolactone or eplerenone

#### Using an electronic health/medical record system

A search for information “triggers” can be programmed to run daily and automatically to produce a list of patients that meet any or all of the desired search criteria.

#### In the absence of an electronic health/medical record system

Facilities without an electronic record system have used these strategies to identify hospitalized patients with HF:

- Laboratory, echo lab or ED staff provide patient lists with any of above “triggers” to cardiac staff
- 1-2 dedicated staff review patients charts daily for any “triggers” and flag the chart
- 1-2 dedicated staff search for potential patients with HF in person
- Staff review HF patient referrals by case management, nursing staff, and other clinicians
- Pharmacy department staff generate a list of patients with medication triggers

#### Using the following codes can help hospitals identify heart failure patients

ICD-9- CM HF Codes	Description
402.01	Malignant hypertensive heart disease with congestive heart failure (CHF)
402.11	Benign hypertensive heart disease with CHF
402.91	Hypertensive heart disease with CHF
404.01	Malignant hypertensive heart and renal disease with CHF
404.03	Malignant hypertensive heart and renal disease with CHF & renal failure (RF)
404.11	Benign hypertensive heart and renal disease with CHF
404.13	Benign hypertensive heart and renal disease with CHF & RF
404.91	Unspecified hypertensive heart and renal disease with CHF
404.93	Hypertension and non-specified heart and renal disease with CHF & RF
425.xx	Cardiomyopathy
428.xx	Heart failure codes