

Measure specifications may be modified based on recommendations issued by the National Quality Forum

Quality of Care Measure

HF-2: LVF Assessment

Description: Heart failure patients with documentation in the hospital record that left ventricular function (LVF) was assessed before arrival, during hospitalization, or is planned for after discharge.

Type of Measure: CMS Core
JCAHO Core

Rationale: Appropriate selection of medications to reduce morbidity and mortality in heart failure requires the identification of patients with impaired left ventricular systolic function. National guidelines advocate the assessment of left ventricular systolic function as the single most important diagnostic test in the management of all patients with heart failure (Hunt, 2001). Despite these recommendations, left ventricular function is not assessed in a substantial proportion of patients hospitalized with heart failure (Jencks, 2000).

Denominator Statement: Heart failure patients.

Included Populations: All discharges regardless of payer with a principal diagnosis of heart failure (ICD-9-CM codes 402.01, 402.11, 402.91, 404.01, 404.03, 404.11, 404.13, 404.91, 404.93, 428.0, 428.1, 428.20, 428.21, 428.22, 428.23, 428.30, 428.31, 428.32, 428.33, 428.40, 428.41, 428.42, 428.43, 428.9)

Excluded Populations:

- Patients less than 18 years of age
- Patients transferred to another acute care hospital
- Patients who expired
- Patients who left against medical advice
- Patients discharged to hospice
- Patients with reasons documented by a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant for no LVF assessment

Numerator Statement: Heart failure patients with documentation in the hospital record that LVF was assessed before arrival, during hospitalization, or is planned for after discharge.

Selected References:

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. *Heart Failure: Evaluation and Care of Patients with Left Ventricular Systolic Dysfunction*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Clinical Practice Guidelines, Number 11. No 94-0612, June 1994*.
- Hunt SA, Baker DW, Chin, MH, Cinquegrani MP, Feldman AM, Francis GS, Ganiats TG, Goldstein S, Gregoratos G, Jessup ML, Noble RJ, Packer M, Silver MA, Stevenson LW. ACC/AHA guidelines for the evaluation and management of chronic heart failure in the adult: a report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines (Committee to Revise the 1995 Guidelines for the Evaluation and Management of Heart Failure). 2001 American College of Cardiology Web site. Available at:
http://www.acc.org/clinical/guidelines/failure/pdfs/hf_fulltext.pdf
- Jencks SJ, Cuerdon T, Burwen DR, Fleming B, Houck PM, Kussmaul AE, Nilasena DS, Ordin DL, Arday DR. Quality of Medical Care Delivered to Medicare Beneficiaries: A Profile at State and National Levels. *JAMA*. 2000;284:1670-1676.