

****NQF-ENDORSED VOLUNTARY CONSENSUS STANDARDS FOR HOSPITAL CARE****

Measure Information Form

Measure Set: Heart Failure

Set Measure ID#: HF-1

Performance Measure Name: Discharge Instructions

Description: Heart failure patients discharged home with written instructions or educational material given to patient or care giver at discharge or during the hospital stay addressing **all** of the following: activity level, diet, discharge medications, follow-up appointment, weight monitoring, and what to do if symptoms worsen.

Rationale: Patient non-compliance with diet and medications is an important reason for changes in clinical status. Health care professionals should ensure that patients and their families understand their dietary restrictions, activity recommendations, prescribed medication regimen, and the signs and symptoms of worsening heart failure. National guidelines strongly support the role of patient education (Hunt, 2001). Despite this recommendation, comprehensive discharge instructions are rarely provided to older patients hospitalized with heart failure (CMS National Heart Failure Project baseline data).

Type of Measure: Process

Improvement Noted As: An increase in the rate

Numerator Statement: Heart failure patients with documentation that they or their caregivers were given written discharge instructions or other educational material addressing **all** of the following:

1. activity level
2. diet
3. discharge medications
4. follow-up appointment
5. weight monitoring
6. what to do if symptoms worsen

Included Populations: Not Applicable

Excluded Populations: None

Data Elements:

- *Discharge Instructions Address Activity*
- *Discharge Instructions Address Diet*
- *Discharge Instructions Address Follow-up*
- *Discharge Instructions Address Medications*
- *Discharge Instructions Address Symptoms Worsening*
- *Discharge Instructions Address Weight Monitoring*

Denominator Statement: Heart failure patients discharged home

Included Populations: Discharges with:

- An *ICD-9-CM Principal Diagnosis Code* for heart failure as defined in Appendix A, Table 2.1
AND
- A discharge to home, home care, or home IV therapy.

Excluded Populations: Patients less than 18 years of age

Data Elements:

- *Admission Date*
- *Birthdate*
- *Discharge Status*
- *ICD-9-CM Principal Diagnosis Code*

Risk Adjustment: No

Data Collection Approach: Retrospective data sources for required data elements include administrative data and medical records.

Data Accuracy: Variation may exist in the assignment of ICD-9-CM codes; therefore, coding practices may require evaluation to ensure consistency.

Measure Analysis Suggestions: The data elements for each of the six discharge instruction elements provide the opportunity to assess each component individually. However, completion of all six instruction categories is required for this composite measure.

Sampling: Yes, for additional information see the Sampling section.

Data Reported as: Aggregate rate generated from count data reported as a proportion

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

HF-1: Discharge Instructions

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