

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

Measure Information Form

Measure Set: Heart Failure

Set Measure ID#: HF-2

Performance Measure Name: 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.

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).

Type of Measure: Process

Improvement Noted As: An increase in the rate

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

Included Populations: Not Applicable

Excluded Populations: None

Data Elements:

LVF Assessment

Denominator Statement: Heart failure patients

Included Populations: Discharges with an *ICD-9-CM Principal Diagnosis Code* for heart failure as defined in Appendix A, Table 2.1.

Excluded Populations:

- Patients less than 18 years of age
- Patients transferred to another acute care hospital or federal 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

Data Elements:

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

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: None

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
- 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.

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Denominator: Heart failure patients.



