ACC/AHA Key Data Elements and Definitions for Measuring the Clinical Management and Outcomes of Patients With Chronic Heart Failure

A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Clinical Data Standards (Writing Committee to Develop Heart Failure Clinical Data Standards)

Developed in Collaboration With the American College of Chest Physicians and the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation

Endorsed by the Heart Failure Society of America

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This document was approved by the American College of Cardiology Board of Trustees in August 2005 and the American Heart Association Science Advisory and Coordinating Committee in August 2005.

When citing this document, the American Heart Association would appreciate the following citation format: Radford MJ, Arnold JM, Bennett SJ, Cinquegrani MP, Cleland JGF, Havranek EP, Heidenreich PA, Rutherford JD, Spertus JA, Stevenson LW. ACC/AHA key data elements and data definitions for measuring the clinical management and outcomes of patients with heart failure: a report of the ACC/AHA Task Force on Clinical Data Standards (Heart Failure Data Standards Writing Committee). Circulation. 2005;112:1888–1916.

Copies: This document is available on the World Wide Web sites of the American College of Cardiology (www.acc.org) and the American Heart Association (www.americanheart.org). Single copies of this document as published in the September 20, 2005 issue of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology and the September 20, 2005 issue of Circulation are available for $10.00 each by calling 1-800-611-6083 (U.S. only) or fax 413-665-2671; 1000 or more copies, call 214-706-1789, fax 214-691-6342, or E-mail: pubauth@heart.org.

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DOI: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.105.170073
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Preamble

The American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the American Heart Association (AHA) recognize the importance of refining the lexicon used to describe the process and outcomes of clinical care, whether in randomized trials, observational studies, registries, or quality improvement initiatives. Broad professional consensus on a common vocabulary with common definitions will facilitate cross-study comparisons or, when advantageous, combining of data across studies and improving the assessment of any project’s generalizability to clinical practice. To further efforts aimed at standardizing such a lexicon, the ACC and AHA have undertaken to develop and publish clinical data standards sets of standardized data elements and corresponding definitions that can be used in a variety of data collection efforts for a range of cardiovascular conditions.

It is hoped that these clinical data standards will:

1. Improve cross-comparison of results and clinical outcomes between different trials and registries.
2. Facilitate the development and conduct of future registries, at both hospital and national levels, by providing a list of major variables, outcomes, and definitions.
3. Facilitate measurement for quality improvement programs.
4. Become the basis for a standardized medical documentation process with the anticipation that the medical record will progress to an electronic format.

The ACC/AHA Task Force on Clinical Data Standards makes every effort to avoid any actual or potential conflicts of interest that might arise as a result of an outside relationship or a personal interest of a member of the writing panel. Specifically, all members of the writing panel are asked to provide disclosure statements of all such relationships that might be perceived as real or potential conflicts of interest. These statements are reviewed by the parent task force, reported orally to all members of the writing panel at the first meeting, and updated as changes occur.

The ACC/AHA Task Force on Clinical Data Standards selects cardiovascular conditions and procedures that would benefit from the creation of a standard dataset. Experts in the subject are selected to examine/examine existing data standards and develop a comprehensive, yet not exhaustive, standard dataset. Users should understand that, when undertaking a data collection effort, only a subset may be needed or, conversely, they may want to consider whether it may be necessary to collect some elements not listed. For example, in the setting of a randomized clinical trial of a new drug, additional information would likely be required regarding study procedures and drug therapies.

The ACC and AHA aim to standardize the language used to describe cardiovascular diseases and procedures, enhance consistency in cardiology, and increase opportunities for sharing data across various data sources. The ultimate goal of ACC/AHA clinical data standards is to contribute to the infrastructure necessary for accomplishing the ACC/AHA’s mission of fostering optimal cardiovascular care and disease prevention.

The ACC and AHA support the goals of their members to improve cardiovascular care and disease prevention through professional education, promotion of research, development of guidelines and standards for cardiovascular care, and fostering a policy that supports optimal patient outcomes. Both the ACC and the AHA recognize the importance of the use of clinical data for patient management, in the assessment of patient outcomes, and in research efforts focused on improving the clinical treatment of patients.

As a component of this objective, the ACC/AHA clinical data standards concentrate on the identification, definition, and standardization of data corresponding with various clinical topics in cardiology. The primary goal of clinical data standards is to assist in the collection of data by providing an initial platform of data elements and corresponding definitions applicable to various disease conditions in cardiology. These key elements and definitions are a compilation of variables applicable in the measurement of patient clinical management and outcomes, and for research and epidemiological assessments.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy regulations, which went into effect in April 2003, have heightened all practitioners’ awareness of our professional commitment to safeguard our patients’ privacy. Our goal is to treat every patient’s health information with the same respect and courtesy as
The syndrome of heart failure (HF) is a common manifestation of the later stages of various cardiovascular diseases, including coronary artery disease, hypertension, valvular disease, and primary myocardial disease. It is the most common reason for hospitalization among older individuals (1), and its appearance usually foreshadows the need for ongoing care for the duration of the patient’s life. Therapy for HF has benefited from scientific investigations into basic molecular mechanisms of disease (2,3) from advances in engineering, instrumentation, and surgery (4) and from large multicenter trials (5–7) and registries (8,9). Increasingly, care of patients with HF, particularly advanced HF, may take place in specialized clinics using a team approach (10–12). In addition, growing national interest in quality of treatment has focused scrutiny on patterns and outcomes of HF care (13,14).

Heart failure was identified for development of data standards by the ACC and the AHA. As with the first condition, acute coronary syndromes (ACS) (15), and the second condition, atrial fibrillation (AF) (16), the goal of the data standards is to provide a standardized information platform that will be useful in a variety of situations, particularly clinical trials, clinical registries, and quality performance measurement. Similar to the writing committees for ACS and AF clinical data standards, the ACC/AHA Writing Committee to Develop Clinical Data Standards for Heart Failure proceeded to develop data element definitions with the understanding that they might be useful in a variety of circumstances:

- Clinical programs, such as HF clinics, where many providers work together to achieve specific and specified goals for the care of patients with HF.
- Clinical registries, for ongoing care, prospective epidemiologic research, or prospective quality performance measurement.
- Clinical research, particularly prospective randomized clinical trials where eventual pooled analysis or meta-analysis is anticipated.
- Quality performance measurement initiatives, provider-based or external, retrospective or prospective.
- Organization and design of electronic medical information initiatives, such as electronic medical records, pharmacy databases, or computerized decision support.

II. METHODOLOGY

A. Writing Committee Composition

The ACC/AHA Task Force on Clinical Data Standards selected members for the ACC/AHA Writing Committee to Develop Clinical Data Standards for Heart Failure (Writing Committee). The Writing Committee consisted of 10 members who are active in clinical research in HF, clinical programs (HF clinics, transplant programs, centers of excellence), HF registries, and quality performance measurement initiatives. The Writing Committee included membership from the U.S., Great Britain, and Canada so as to ensure balance in the selection of data elements and consideration of variations in practice worldwide. A representative from cardiovascular nursing
provided expertise in the area of patient education. To ensure consistency between the clinical data standards and other ACC/AHA HF documents, the Task Force also appointed representatives from the ACC/AHA Heart Failure Guideline Update Writing Committee and the ACC/AHA Heart Failure Performance Measures Writing Committee.

B. Relationships With Industry

The American College of Cardiology makes every effort to avoid any actual or potential conflicts of interest that may arise as a result of an outside relationship or a personal, professional, or business interest of a member of the writing panel. Specifically, all members of the writing group are required to complete and submit a disclosure form showing all such relationships that might be perceived as real or potential conflicts of interest. These statements are reviewed by the ACC/AHA Task Force on Clinical Data Standards, reported orally to all members of the writing panel at the first meeting, and updated as changes occur. Please see Appendix B for Writing Committee relationships with industry and Appendix C for relationships with industry information for peer reviewers of this document.

C. Review of the Literature and Existing Data Definitions

The ACC/AHA Task Force on Clinical Data Standards supported gathering as many candidate data elements and definitions as possible, principally from large clinical trials, national quality performance measurement initiatives, and guidelines. The Writing Committee compiled and reviewed case report forms, data elements, and definitions from national, international, and local cardiovascular data collection efforts. Examples of these data sources include the ACC-NCDR (http://www.accncdr.com/WebNCDR/Elements.aspx), the ACC Key Data Elements and Definitions for Measuring the Clinical Management and Outcomes of Patients With Acute Coronary Syndromes (15), the Quality Indicators for Heart Failure Patients (http://cms.hhs.gov/healthplans/chf/qapi-0601.pdf), the Cardiac Transplant Research Database, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Common Data Elements (http://www.cdc.gov/data/imw24.pdf), the Iowa Foundation for Medical Care’s Heart Failure tools (http://www.internetifmc.com/prof_inpatient_hf_tools.php), and the Organized Program to Initiate Life-Saving Treatment in Hospitalized Patients with Heart Failure (OPTIMIZE-HF) Internet-based registry (17).

The HF data standards are meant to provide data elements that parallel and complement other ACC and AHA standards, specifically the guidelines and the performance measures. The ACC/AHA 2005 Guideline Update for the Diagnosis and Management of Chronic Heart Failure in the Adult (18) served as the primary evidence-based document that writers of this data element set referenced in their development of data element definitions. The ACC/AHA Clinical Performance Measures for Adults With Chronic Heart Failure (19) were developed simultaneously with the HF data standards, with frequent exchange of information between these two committees. Other research articles, clinical trials, and reference sources were consulted as needed and are cited throughout this document.

D. Prioritizing Data Elements

After the Writing Committee reviewed the HF guidelines, other pertinent literature, and the data definitions from related sources, a comprehensive list of possible data elements to include in this set was created. This initial list aimed at capturing the universe of potential elements with the understanding that, by necessity, this set of data elements must be limited to those elements most likely to be needed in data collection efforts for research, clinical care, and quality improvement. From this initial list, the Writing Committee graded the importance of including each data element as “high,” “medium,” or “low.” All of the data elements with an average “high” score and the majority of those with an average “medium” score were maintained in the set. The rest of the elements were not defined at this time, but they are maintained as possible elements to be defined and added at a later time.

The process of writing and revising data element definitions caused many data elements to move in or out of the set for a variety of reasons. In some instances, an element that on its own may have been ranked “low” was necessary to complete a subset of elements pertaining to a related concept. Conversely, an element that was ranked as “high” may later have been determined to be impossible to define in a manner that facilitates consistent data collection, or its content may have been determined to be contained within another data element. In this fashion, the process of prioritizing, adding, and removing data elements continued throughout the Writing Committee’s process.

E. Defining Data Elements

Members of the Writing Committee drafted definitions for those data elements deemed to have priority for the first publication of the HF data standards. Each writer received a template to assist in drafting the definitions and to provide for a structured format across authors. Members were encouraged to write definitions broad enough to be applicable in a variety of data collection settings, but specific enough that the data elements can be uniformly interpreted. Data elements have also been defined to be usable in both inpatient and outpatient settings.

Writing team members received sample definitions from a variety of existing sources (see Section “C. Review of the Literature and Existing Data Definitions”). Data
definitions were linked whenever possible to the evidence-based national guidelines, specifically the ACC/AHA 2005 HF Guideline Update (18). To ensure consistency across ACC/AHA clinical data standards, writers were instructed to use an existing ACC/AHA definition verbatim unless there was a reason related to HF to change that definition.

Similar to guidelines and performance measures, data standards require regular review and updating. At the anniversary of the data standards publication, the Writing Committee chair, in conjunction with Writing Committee members, will review the data standards to ascertain whether or not modifications should be considered. Published ACC/AHA practice guidelines are reviewed one year after publication to determine whether significant advances have occurred in clinical practice to warrant changes in recommendations. To keep current, whenever the relevant guideline is updated the associated data standards will be reviewed and revised to reflect those changes.

**F. Consensus Development**

The ACC/AHA data standards are consensus, team-written documents that are based on judgments of experts in the field of cardiology. This Writing Committee met several times, both in person and through conference calls, over the course of several months to define and refine the data elements. Throughout the creation of the data element set, consensus was developed through discussions (either during face-to-face meetings or conference calls), e-mails, and sometimes written votes. The process of consensus development allowed for the incorporation of minority opinions in the few instances when a group consensus could not be achieved.

**G. Peer Review, Public Comment, and Board Approval**

The set of HF data elements was independently reviewed by three official reviewers nominated by the ACC and two official reviewers nominated by the AHA, the ACC/AHA Heart Failure Guideline Update Writing Committee chair, the ACC/AHA Task Force on Clinical Data Standards, and four independent content reviewers. To further increase its applicability, the document was posted on the ACC Web site (www.acc.org) for a 30-day public comment period. The document was approved for publication by the governing bodies of the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association. The document has been formally endorsed by the Heart Failure Society of America (HFSA). To determine whether a revision is necessary, these clinical data standards will be reviewed a year after publication and yearly thereafter by the ACC/AHA Task Force on Clinical Data Standards.

**H. Considerations for Use of Data Elements and Definitions**

Although the ACC/AHA is not launching this set of data element definitions as the precursor to a national registry, it recognizes that definitions cannot be written effectively without the context of their intended use. The Writing Committee determined three major environments of data collection efforts:

1. Clinical research
2. Clinical care
3. Quality performance measurement

The needs of clinical researchers are frequently unique to the specific research objective. This necessitates specific data element design and definitions, and the definitions proposed in this document may be considered as a starting point. In contrast, quality performance measurement, particularly when quality comparison is the goal, requires standard definitions for all data elements. When caregivers anticipate outcomes research based on their patients’ care and experiences, uniform definitions are also strongly advised. Discussion of the considerations for use in clinical care and quality performance measurement was as much a component of the consensus development process as were the data definitions themselves.

It should be noted that clinical data standards present a model of elements that might be employed in data collection efforts, such as operating a registry, and are not functional databases in themselves.

**I. Special Considerations and Challenges for HF Data Standards**

Several special considerations were raised by the Writing Committee in its deliberations about which data elements to include and how to define them.

1. **Uses for HF data standards.** In considering heart failure data elements, their importance and their use for specific goals need to be borne in mind. For clinical care, elements pertaining to patient assessment and medical decision-making are paramount. For clinical research, elements pertaining to patient classification and outcomes are most important. For quality performance measurement, elements pertaining to care patterns and patient characteristics modulating care patterns take precedence. For example, for a clinician following a patient with HF, specific physical examination findings that dictate alterations in management are more important to determine than even the eventual outcome, whereas for clinical research the importance of these data elements is reversed. For quality performance measurement, elements describing the health care provider's decision-making (what the provider did and why) are important to elucidate.
2. Balance between focus and comprehensiveness. Although it may be tempting to develop a very comprehensive data element catalogue encompassing every imaginable data need or use, the Writing Committee focused on commonly collected data elements to best focus and enable the use of these data elements in many situations by many users. In particular, the Writing Committee focused on the care of adults with HF. We acknowledge that congenital heart disease may be accompanied by HF, but have proceeded with the understanding that data elements specific to these conditions can be added at a later time or can be incorporated into a similar data standards effort directed toward congenital heart disease.

3. Balance between “primary” and “summary” data elements. In the process of diagnosis and treatment, clinicians gather detailed clinical information, synthesizing the details into a formulation and plan for each patient. It follows, then, that data elements making up a clinical dataset may consist of many individual data elements (e.g., the details of coronary anatomy assessed by angiography) or of summary concepts (e.g., the number of diseased coronary vessels or the physician’s assessment that coronary artery disease is or is not a contributing factor to the patient’s HF syndrome). More often than not, the committee emphasized primary data elements for those features characterizing the HF syndrome and summary data elements for etiologic and therapeutic characteristics. It was recognized, however, that specific projects involving, for example, a diagnostic test or a therapeutic technique, would amplify these core, summary measures with a richer vocabulary of primary data elements.

4. Variety of disease states leading to HF. Heart failure is a syndrome, not a disease. It is a physiologic state resulting from a variety of disease conditions and clinical situations including coronary artery disease, hypertension, valvular disease, hypertension, infection, cancer chemotherapy, and more. Given the Writing Committee’s focus on data elements pertaining to the HF syndrome and its care, the data elements contained herein will be most useful for data collection efforts directed toward patients in Stage C or Stage D heart failure as defined by the ACC/AHA 2005 HF Guideline Update staging classification scheme (18).

5. Acute and chronic care, inpatient and outpatient care venues. In contrast to acute coronary syndromes, HF is a chronic condition, usually with acute manifestations and exacerbations. Clinical care and clinical research are, in general, oriented toward gathering information prospectively about chronic outpatient-based care, whereas most quality performance measurement efforts are directed toward acute care received during hospitalization, usually gathered retrospectively. The Writing Committee considered data elements pertinent to the full range of acute and chronic care provided to these patients. The data elements are intended to be useful for both inpatient and outpatient care venues.

6. Therapy for HF. Defining data elements to describe therapy for HF is a particular challenge. The Writing Committee recognizes that for clinical care, detailed information about therapy is essential. Other uses for these data elements require a summary approach. Given the variety of potential uses of these data standards, the Writing Committee recommends collecting information about medications as total daily dose prescribed at outpatient encounters or upon discharge from acute care hospitalization, and as summary information for therapeutic procedures such as coronary revascularization device implantation. Specific registries and clinical trials of treatment would be expected to specify additional data elements to supplement the summary elements outlined in this document.

7. Outcomes assessment for HF. Mortality and hospitalization outcomes are more comparable and understandable when adjusted for risk; current understanding of important risk-adjustment domains for these outcomes has informed the inclusion of specific data elements. In addition, because HF is a chronic condition, HF care also encompasses outcomes such as symptom burden, functional status, psychological state, compliance with a therapeutic regimen, self-management, and quality of life (11,20–23). (Please see Appendix A for a more detailed discussion of assessment and interpretation.)

III. HF CLINICAL DATA STANDARD ELEMENTS AND DEFINITIONS

A. Patient Demographics (Table 1)

Patient demographic information is used for patient identification for longitudinal care, for demographic grouping to assess issues of access and care quality for traditionally disadvantaged groups, and for risk adjustment. Association of any health information with unique patient identifiers and/or demographic information that can be linked to the individual patient (indicated by an asterisk in Table 1) identifies the dataset as “protected health information.” Unique patient identification information (Social Security number or medical record number) is necessary and appropriate for longitudinal clinical care, but given current legislation protecting patients’ privacy (24), such information is not included in multi-institution registries unless appropriate informed consent is obtained from all patients. For other uses, patient privacy concerns may need to be considered by hospital privacy officers and/or institutional review boards (IRBs).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Element</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| *Gender*     | Indicate the patient's gender at birth. Choose one of the following:  
|              | - Male  
|              | - Female |
| *Date of birth* | Patient date of birth (day, month, and year of patient's birth). |
| *Hispanic ethnicity* | Is this patient Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino? Choose one of the following:  
|              | - Yes  
|              | - No |
| *Race*       | Patient's race as determined by the patient/family:  
|              | - American Indian or Alaska Native  
|              | - Asian  
|              | - Black or African American  
|              | - Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander  
|              | - White  
|              | - Other (specify) |
| *Patient zip code* | Zip code where the patient typically resides. |
| *Care period* | For inpatient, note the date the patient was admitted to the hospital and the date the patient was discharged from the hospital. For outpatient, note the date (day, month, year) of the encounter (physician visit, nurse visit, consultation, procedures, and so on). |
| Insurance payor | Indicate the patient's primary insurance payor for this admission. Choose one of the following:  
|                | - Government: Refers to patients who are covered by government-reimbursed care. In the U.S., this includes:  
|                |   - Medicare  
|                |   - Medicaid (including all state or federal Medicaid-type programs)  
|                |   - Champus  
|                |   - Veterans Health Administration  
|                |   - Department of Defense  
|                |   - Other federal group (specify)  
|                | - Commercial: refers to all indemnity (fee-for-service) carriers and preferred provider organizations (PPOs).  
|                | - HMO: refers to a health maintenance organization characterized by coverage that provides health care services for members on a pre-paid basis.  
|                | - None: refers to individuals with no or limited health insurance; thus, the individual is the payor regardless of ability to pay. Only mark “None” when "self" or "none" is denoted as the first insurance in the medical record. |
| Government payor type | If the patient's primary insurance payor for this encounter is “Government,” choose the type of government insurance:  
|                | - Medicare  
|                | - Medicaid  
|                | - Other |
| Presentation to health care facility | Type of presentation to health care facility:  
|                | - Emergency admission for HF  
|                | - Emergency admission for other cardiovascular problem  
|                | - Emergency admission for non-cardiovascular problem (e.g., pneumonia)  
|                | - Planned admission for cardiovascular disease  
|                | - Planned admission for non-cardiovascular disease  
|                | - Regularly scheduled outpatient visit  
|                | - Other outpatient visits, including urgent outpatient visits  
|                | - Remote monitoring  
|                | - Telephone contact  
|                | - Electronic communication  
|                | - Other (specify)  
| Location of health care encounter | Type of location of health care encounter:  
|                | - Acute-care hospital  
|                | - Long-term care facility  
|                | - Emergency department  
|                | - Caregiver office  
|                |   - Heart failure clinic  
|                |   - Cardiology practice  
|                |   - Primary care physician office  
|                |   - Other caregiver office  
|                | - Other (specify)  
| Note if patient is a new patient or a prior patient with a new entry. |
Information about patients’ medical history is important in quality performance measurement, clinical research, and clinical care. Presence of cardiac risk factors have both prognostic and management implications, as do elements describing current cardiovascular conditions. History of non-cardiac conditions may denote absolute or relative contraindications to various therapies, or may significantly impact outcomes. Inclusion of data elements pertinent to medical history is, therefore, important to clinical decision-making, to design of quality performance measures, and to risk-adjusted outcomes assessment. For most purposes, these data elements can be recorded as either present or absent. Year of onset may be helpful, especially when data collection is used for longitudinal clinical follow-up. More detailed information about the severity of each condition (e.g., record of prior hospitalizations or specifics of therapy for the condition) might be considered for certain users.

### Table 2. Medical History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Element</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History of smoking</td>
<td>History confirming cigarette smoking in the past. Choose from the following categories:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Current: smoking cigarettes within one month of this encounter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Recent: stopped smoking cigarettes between 1 month and 1 year before this encounter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Former: stopped smoking cigarettes more than one year prior to this encounter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Never: never smoked cigarettes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For current or former smokers, total pack years may be useful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Element</td>
<td>Definition</td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medical History: Heart Failure Risk Factors, continued</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| History of alcohol consumption/dependency | Alcohol consumption history. Choose from the following categories:  
- None  
- One or fewer alcoholic drinks per week  
- 2 to 7 alcoholic drinks per week  
- 8 or more alcoholic drinks per week  
Alcohol dependency history:  
- Documented alcohol dependency  
- Medical sequelae of alcohol consumption (alcoholic hepatitis, cirrhosis, alcohol neuropathy, Wernicke-Korsakoff syndrome)  
- Treatment for alcohol dependency  
For dependent consumers of alcohol, note treatment for dependency, cessation of use, or continued use. |
| History of diabetes                   | History of diabetes, regardless of duration of disease, need for antidiabetic agents, or a fasting blood sugar greater than 7 mmol/l or 126 mg/dl.  
The year of onset (first diagnosis) and whether juvenile or adult onset may be helpful. |
| Diabetes treatment                    | Method of diabetic treatment at time of encounter. Choose from the following categories:  
- None: no treatment for diabetes  
- Diet: diet treatment  
- Oral: oral agent treatment. Oral agent(s) should be specified:  
  - Metformin  
  - Sulfonylureas  
  - Thiazolidinediones (TZDs)  
- Insulin: insulin treatment  
- Insulin and oral: insulin and oral agent treatment |
| Hypertension                          | Indicate if the patient has hypertension as documented by:  
- History of hypertension diagnosed and treated with medication, diet, and/or exercise  
- Blood pressure greater than 140 mm Hg systolic or 90 mm Hg diastolic on at least 2 occasions  
- Blood pressure greater than 130 mm Hg systolic or 80 mm Hg diastolic on at least 2 occasions for patients with diabetes or chronic kidney disease (25)  
More than one of the above may apply. The year of onset (first diagnosis) may be helpful. |
| Dyslipidemia                          | Indicate if the patient has dyslipidemia diagnosed and/or treated by a physician or other provider. Criteria may include documentation of:  
- Total cholesterol greater than 200 mg/dl, or  
- Low-density lipoprotein (LDL) greater than or equal to 130 mg/dl, or  
- High-density lipoprotein (HDL) less than 35 mg/dl, or  
- Use of lipid-lowering therapy  
Year of onset (first diagnosis) may be helpful. |
| History of thyroid disorder           | Treatment at any time for hyperthyroidism or currently receiving thyroid supplementation for hypothyroidism.  
Year of onset (first diagnosis) may be helpful. |
| History of exposure to cardiotoxic chemotherapy | History of exposure to cardiotoxic chemotherapy:  
- Anthracyclines: adriamycin, daunorubicin, doxorubicin, epirubicin, idarubicin, etc.  
- Mitoxantrone  
- Cyclophosphamide  
- Mitomycin C  
- Trastuzumab (Herceptin)  
Total cumulative dose should be recorded for chemotherapeutic agents. |
| History of thoracic radiation         | History of thoracic radiation therapy.  
Specify if radiation therapy was received before/after 20 years of age. Specify location (mediastinal, chest, breast, or other). Total radiation exposure should be recorded. |
| History of exposure to cardiotoxic substances | History of exposure to cardiotoxic substances through substance abuse:  
- Cocaine  
- Amphetamine  
- Ephedrine  
- Other (specify) |
| Family history of sudden cardiac death | Family history (parent or sibling) of sudden cardiac death, defined as natural death due to cardiac causes, heralded by abrupt loss of consciousness. The time and mode of death are unexpected even though pre-existing heart disease may have been known to be present (26). Sudden death without obvious cause is considered sudden cardiac death. Traumatic death subsequently proven to be due to sudden loss of control due to a cardiac problem is included.  
Age at time of sudden cardiac death may be specified. |
### Table 2 Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Element</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medical History: Heart Failure Risk Factors, continued</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history of premature coronary artery disease</td>
<td>Any direct blood relatives (parents, siblings, children) who have had any of the following at age less than 55 years for male relatives or less than 65 years for female relatives (27):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Angina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Acute myocardial infarction</td>
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<td></td>
<td>● Sudden cardiac death without obvious cause</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Coronary artery bypass graft surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Percutaneous coronary intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history of muscular dystrophy</td>
<td>Family history of muscular dystrophy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history of conduction system disease</td>
<td>Family history of early onset of atrial or ventricular arrhythmias or conduction system disease.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history of cardiomyopathy</td>
<td>Family history of cardiomyopathy (dilated, poorly contracting left ventricle in the absence of coronary artery disease, arrhythmogenic right ventricular dysplasia (ARVD), hypertrophic heart disease, or other specific cardiac muscle disease) in one or more first-degree relative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy</td>
<td>Family history of cardiomyopathy, with or without obstruction. May specify etiology if known.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV status</td>
<td>● HIV seropositive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● AIDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medical History: Cardiovascular</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of heart failure</td>
<td>Physician documentation or report of any of the following symptoms of heart failure prior to this care encounter described as unusual dyspnea on light exertion, recurrent dyspnea occurring in the supine position, fluid retention, low cardiac output secondary to cardiac dysfunction; or the description of rales, jugular venous distension, or pulmonary edema. A previous hospital admission with principal diagnosis of heart failure is considered evidence of heart failure history. Date of first onset may be helpful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of angina</td>
<td>History of angina may include:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Stable angina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Unstable angina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates should be sought for the onset of either stable or unstable angina.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of myocardial infarction</td>
<td>History of myocardial infarction as determined by any of the following:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Hospital admission for acute myocardial infarction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● EKG report indicating previous (old) or acute myocardial infarction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Increase in biochemical marker (creatine kinase or troponin) consistent with myocardial infarction. Note that low elevation in troponin level may be seen in patients with heart failure and should not by themselves be considered diagnostic of infarction (15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Patient reports history of acute myocardial infarction or heart attack.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of myocardial infarctions and year of the first and the most recent episode may be helpful.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous coronary artery bypass graft (CABG)</td>
<td>Coronary artery bypass graft surgery prior to the current encounter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of CABG procedures and year of most recent may be helpful.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI)</td>
<td>PCI of any type (balloon angioplasty, atherectomy, stent, or other) prior to the current encounter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of PCI procedures and year of most recent may be helpful.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous pacemaker or ICD implantation</td>
<td>Pacemaker or ICD implantation prior to the current encounter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Device type (pacemaker, ICD, combination), cardiac chamber(s) involved, and year of implantation may be helpful.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of peripheral embolic event</td>
<td>History of peripheral embolic event as determined by:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Hospital admission for peripheral embolic event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Patient reports history of peripheral embolic event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Report of diagnostic or therapeutic procedure indicating presence of peripheral embolic event (for example, embolectomy, angiography; nuclear study; ultrasound study)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year of the first episode and number of events may be helpful.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Medical History: Cardiovascular, continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Element</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **History of atrial arrhythmias** | History of any of the following atrial arrhythmias:  
  - Atrial fibrillation or atrial flutter. Specify whether paroxysmal or chronic.  
  - Atrial tachycardia  
  - Sick sinus syndrome  
  - Paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia  
  Year of the first and the most recent episode may be helpful. |
| **History of ventricular arrhythmias** | History of either of the following ventricular arrhythmias:  
  - Ventricular tachycardia (sustained/nonsustained)  
  - Ventricular fibrillation  
  Specify documentation source (e.g., Holter, event recorder, ICD, pacemaker, etc.). Year of the first and the most recent episode may be helpful. |
| **History of arrhythmogenic disease, syndrome, or substrate** | History of any of the following arrhythmogenic conditions:  
  - Right ventricular (RV) dysplasia  
  - Brugada syndrome  
  - Wolf-Parkinson-White syndrome  
  - Sudden unexpected death syndrome (young Asian males)  
  - Atrial ventricular nodal re-entrant tachycardia (AVNRT)  
  - RV outflow tract ventricular tachycardia  
  - Bundle-branch mediated ventricular tachycardia  
  Year of the first and the most recent episode may be helpful. |
| **History of cerebrovascular disease** | History of cerebrovascular disease, documented by any one of the following:  
  - Cerebrovascular ischemic or hemorrhagic stroke: patient has a history of stroke (i.e., any focal neurological deficit of abrupt onset caused by a disturbance in blood supply that did not resolve within 24 hours) confirmed by a standard neurological examination with or without a positive imaging study, or an event of presumed ischemic origin that did not resolve within 24 hours, but the imaging showed a new lesion.  
  - Transient ischemic attack (TIA): patient has a history of any sudden new focal neurological deficit of presumed ischemic origin as determined by a standard neurological exam that resolved completely within 24 hours, with a brain image study not revealing a new lesion.  
  - Noninvasive/invasive carotid test with greater than or equal to 75% occlusion  
  - Previous carotid artery surgery  
  - Previous carotid angioplasty  
  Year of the first and most recent episode may be helpful. |
| **Level of disability following stroke** | Level of disability following stroke:  
  - Recovered  
  - Minor persisting disability  
  - Major persisting disability  
  Year of the first and most recent episode may be helpful. |
| **History of peripheral arterial disease** | History of peripheral arterial disease may include:  
  - Claudication either with exertion or at rest  
  - Amputation for arterial vascular insufficiency  
  - Vascular reconstruction, bypass surgery, or percutaneous intervention to the extremities  
  - Documented aortic aneurysm  
  Year of the first episode and number of events may be helpful. |
| **History of rheumatic valvular disease** | History of primary valvular disease may include:  
  - History of acute rheumatic fever/carditis (usually determined through correspondence with major and minor criteria [28])  
  - History of valve disease with echocardiographic findings suggestive of or diagnostic of rheumatic valvular disease  
  Year of the first episode may be helpful. |
| **History of other valvular disease etiology** | History of valvular disease of other etiology (specify):  
  - Congenital (present at birth or occurring association with congenital heart disease syndrome)  
  - Degenerative (acquired during adulthood, usually after age 50)  
  - Infectious (acquired as a result of infectious endocarditis)  
  - Toxic (for example, as a result of exposure to fenfluramine phentermine dexfenfluramine)  
  - Other (specify)  
  Year of the first episode may be helpful. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Element</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medical History: Cardiovascular, continued</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| History of congenital cardiac lesions | History of congenital cardiac lesions including:  
  - Patent ductus arteriosus  
  - Atrial septic defect (ASD)  
  - Ventricular septal defect (VSD)  
  - Tetralogy of Fallot  
  - Transposition of great vessels  
  - Congenitally corrected transposition  
  - Single ventricle  
  - Other  
  Specify type of lesion. Note if lesion has had corrective therapy and specify date of correction. |
| History of Chagas disease | Documented history of Chagas disease. |
| **Medical History: Non-Cardiovascular** |  |
| History of asthma | History of asthma. For patients with onset of asthma in adulthood, asthma diagnosis should precede heart failure diagnosis by at least 5 years or have documented pulmonary function test (PFT) evidence of reversible bronchospasm.  
Note: because patients with heart failure may present with wheezing and other clinical features mimicking asthma, care in distinguishing these conditions from one another is crucial. |
| History of chronic renal insufficiency | History of reduced glomerular filtration rate for at least 3 months. Degree of renal insufficiency may be further defined according to degree of depression in glomerular filtration rate (GFR):  
  - Mild renal insufficiency: GFR 60–89 ml/min/1.73 m²  
  - Moderate renal insufficiency: GFR 30–59 ml/min/1.73 m²  
  - Severe renal insufficiency: GFR 15–29 ml/min/1.73 m²  
  - Renal failure: GFR less than 15 ml/min/1.73 m², or patient requires chronic dialysis treatment  
Note: GFR may be estimated using the serum creatinine–GFR \( \frac{1}{100} \times (PCr)^{1.154} \times (age)^{0.203} \times (0.742 \text{ if female}) \times (1.210 \text{ if black}) \)  
Year of onset (first diagnosis) may be helpful. |
| History of acute renal insufficiency | History of reduced renal function (see "History of chronic renal insufficiency" element) for less than 3 months. Year of occurrence of and precipitant for acute renal insufficiency may be specified. |
| History of dialysis | History of renal dialysis, either by:  
  - Hemodialysis  
  - Peritoneal dialysis  
Year of onset may be helpful. |
| History of chronic lung disease | History of chronic lung disease (e.g., chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, chronic bronchitis, emphysema) or currently being chronically treated with inhaled or oral pharmacological therapy (e.g., beta-adrenergic agonist, anti-inflammatory agent, leukotriene receptor antagonist, or steroid). Year of onset (first diagnosis) may be helpful. |
| History of dementia | History of dementia, Alzheimer’s disease, chronic confusion (at least one month in duration), or senility. Year of onset (first diagnosis) may be helpful. |
| History of depression | History of treated depression, or currently taking antidepressant medication. Note if past or present episode has or is currently requiring drug treatment or electroconvulsive therapy (ECT). Year of onset (first diagnosis) may be helpful. |
| History of liver disease | History of chronic hepatitis or cirrhosis. |
| History of lupus or collagen vascular disease | History of collagen vascular disease such as lupus erythematosis, scleroderma, rheumatoid arthritis. |
| History of musculo-skeletal disease | History of primary musculo-skeletal disease, including muscular dystrophy, myasthenia gravis, dermatomyositis. |
| History of malignancy | History of cancer, excluding non-melanoma skin cancers. Cancer site and date of first diagnosis may be helpful. |
| History of influenza immunization | History of influenza immunization.  
Month and year of most recent immunization should be noted. |
| History of pneumococcal immunization | History of pneumococcal immunization.  
Month and year of most recent immunization should be noted. |
| History of urinary continence | History of urinary continence. Choose from the following categories:  
  - Continent  
  - Occasionally incontinent  
  - Totally incontinent  
  - Dialysis |
C. Patient Assessment: Current Symptoms and Signs (Table 3)

For patients with HF, assessment of signs and symptoms is directed toward evaluation of volume status and cardiac output. For all symptoms reported by the patient, consider collecting time-frame (onset, current, course, and so on) and change in symptoms since last visit (better, worse, unchanged). For inpatient care encounters, the first patient assessment (history and physical examination) should be reported. Often these data can be captured with health status instruments. Please see Appendix A for discussion of systematic collection of patient’s functional status using structured survey/questionnaire instruments.

Table 3. Patient Assessment: Current Symptoms and Signs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Element</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical Symptoms</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyspnea at rest</td>
<td>Patient describes frequent uncomfortable awareness of breathing while resting in a sitting position. Date of onset and duration may be helpful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyspnea on exertion</td>
<td>Patient describes uncomfortable awareness of breathing while exerting him/herself. Indicate degree of activity required to elicit dyspnea symptom: Running or other sport (specify sport) Walking up an incline (specify distance) Walking on a flat surface (specify distance) Stopping to rest while dressing Standing (specify length of time) Other activity (i.e., shopping or housework; specify) Date of onset and duration may be helpful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthopnea</td>
<td>Patient describes at least one of the following: Uncomfortable awareness of breathing while in a supine position Positioning with 3 or more pillows or in a chair or recliner to maintain comfortable breathing during sleep Recurrent supine cough without other known cause may be an orthopnea equivalent Date of onset and duration may be helpful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea</td>
<td>Patient describes awakening suddenly from sleep with uncomfortable awareness of breathing, or with general distress relieved by the upright position. Any report of this symptom lasting greater than 5 minutes is considered positive. Date of onset and duration may be helpful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight gain or loss</td>
<td>Amount of weight gain or loss, in pounds or kilograms, as reported by the patient. Time frame over which weight change occurred should be noted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swelling</td>
<td>Patient reports swelling or puffiness in extremities, abdomen, and/or other areas. Date of onset and duration may be helpful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>Patient describes unusual tiredness and inability to perform usual activities. Date of onset and duration may be helpful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angina</td>
<td>Angina refers to previous or current symptoms described as chest pain or pressure, jaw pain, arm pain, or other equivalent discomfort suggestive of cardiac ischemia. The Canadian Cardiovascular Society angina classification (29) is useful in determining the level of angina: Grade I: ordinary physical activity does not cause angina—for example walking or climbing stairs, angina occurs with strenuous or rapid or prolonged exertion at work or recreation. Grade II: slight limitation of ordinary activity—for example, angina occurs walking or stair climbing after meals, in cold, in wind, under emotional stress or only during the few hours after awakening, walking more than two blocks on the level or climbing more than one flight of ordinary stairs at a normal pace and in normal conditions. Grade III: marked limitation of ordinary activity—for example, angina occurs walking one or two blocks on the level or climbing one flight of stairs in normal conditions and at a normal pace. Grade IV: inability to carry on any physical activity without discomfort—angina syndrome may be present at rest. Year of onset (first diagnosis) may be helpful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syncope</td>
<td>Sudden loss of consciousness not related to anesthesia, with spontaneous recovery as reported by patient or observer. Patients losing consciousness prior to an implantable cardiac defibrillator (ICD) discharge will be considered to have syncope. Date of most recent episode may be helpful.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
D. Patient Assessment: Summary Assessment (Table 4)

Specific HF etiologies are provided for those data collection efforts that require a more specific delineation than “ischemic or non-ischemic.” The possible etiologies allow for a pick-and-choose approach. A primary etiology and/or multiple etiologies may be chosen. The definitions of HF etiologies have been constructed to imply causality and not merely association. The list of potential etiologies represents a compromise between brevity and comprehensiveness.

Although the New York Heart Association (NYHA) functional class (30) has proven useful as a measure summarizing the patient’s overall HF symptom burden, it may be imprecise, subject to substantial interobserver variability, and may change over time. Heart failure stage (18) and patient-reported health status (21,31,32) are emerging as important constructs for delivering and evaluating HF care.
### Table 4. Patient Assessment: Summary Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Element</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Heart Failure Etiology** | Any of the following conditions indicates ischemic heart disease:  
- At least one major epicardial coronary artery with more than 70% obstruction by coronary angiography  
- History of acute myocardial infarction associated with wall motion abnormality by echocardiography or gated blood pool imaging  
- Stress testing (with or without imaging) diagnostic of coronary artery disease  
| Evidence for ischemic heart disease | Evidence for valvular heart disease  
- Primary valvular disease:  
  - Moderately severe or severe, or 3+ or 4+ aortic insufficiency  
  - Moderately severe or severe, or 3+ or 4+ mitral insufficiency with echocardiographic evidence that mitral insufficiency is a primary abnormality, and not secondary to ventricular dilation  
  - Moderately severe or severe aortic stenosis defined by estimated aortic valve area by catheterization or Doppler echocardiography of less than or equal to 1.0 cm²  
  - Moderately severe or severe mitral stenosis defined by estimated mitral valve area by catheterization or echocardiography of less than 1.0 cm²  
  - Contributory valvular disease:  
    - Valve disease that is felt to be significant but does not fulfill the above definitions  
| Evidence for valvular heart disease | Evidence for myocardial infiltrative or storage disease  
- Systemic amyloidosis by biopsy  
- Hemochromatosis by biopsy or by serum markers in the presence of clinical evidence of multi-organ involvement  
- Heart failure in a patient with a storage disease known to involve the myocardium, including Fabry disease, Gaucher disease, or the glycogen storage diseases  
| Evidence for myocardial infiltrative or storage disease | Evidence for inflammatory myocarditis  
- Biopsy-proven myocarditis  
- Sarcoidosis with biopsy evidence or diagnostic pulmonary radiographic appearance with reduced left ventricular systolic function  
- Documented Chagas disease  
| Evidence for inflammatory myocarditis | Evidence for primary myocardial hypertrophic muscle disease  
- Evidence for symmetric or asymmetric hypertrophy with or without outflow tract obstruction  
- Congenital muscular dystrophy  
| Evidence for primary myocardial hypertrophic muscle disease | Evidence for hypertensive cardiomyopathy  
- Untreated systolic blood pressure greater than 160 mm Hg or diastolic greater than 105 mm Hg for at least 3 months  
- Hypertension requiring at least 2 drugs for control for at least 5 years  
- Presence of diabetes and hypertension, treated or untreated  
- Documented left ventricular hypertrophy (preferably by echocardiography or MRI)  
- Absence of other etiologies for heart failure  
| Evidence for hypertensive cardiomyopathy | Evidence for toxic cardiomyopathy  
- Alcohol abuse present for at least 5 years as defined by either heavy alcohol consumption (i.e., 75 g/day at least 5 days/wk) or alcohol dependence  
- Cocaine use  
- Ephedrine use  
- Temporally-related exposure to a drug or substance known to cause cardiomyopathy, including chemotherapeutic agents(s) and radiation to the chest  
| Evidence for toxic cardiomyopathy | Evidence for pregnancy-related cardiomyopathy  
- Onset of cardiomyopathy associated with pregnancy (peri-, post-partum).  
- Indicate whether cardiomyopathy appears to be:  
  - Reversed/resolved, or  
  - Irreversible, causing permanent damage to the myocardium  
| Evidence for pregnancy-related cardiomyopathy | Evidence for thyroid disorder-related cardiomyopathy  
- Presence of otherwise unexplained cardiomyopathy associated with thyroid disorder.  
| Evidence for thyroid disorder-related cardiomyopathy | Evidence for arrhythmogenic right ventricular dysplasia (ARVD) cardiomyopathy  
- Arrhythmogenic right ventricular dysplasia (ARVD) is characterized by progressive fibrofatty replacement of right ventricular myocardium and right ventricular dysfunction, regional or global, usually demonstrated by echocardiography or cardiac magnetic resonance imaging. It is associated with arrhythmias and sudden death (33).  
| Evidence for arrhythmogenic right ventricular dysplasia (ARVD) cardiomyopathy | Evidence for idiopathic cardiomyopathy  
- Heart failure and reduced systolic function without evidence for any of the above etiologies or other disease known to cause cardiomyopathy.  
| Evidence for idiopathic cardiomyopathy | Familial cardiomyopathy  
- Possible familial cardiomyopathy: presence of otherwise unexplained cardiomegaly, diagnosis of heart failure, atrial fibrillation or life-threatening ventricular arrhythmias, conduction system disease, or sudden death in first degree relative under 60 years of age  
- Probable familial cardiomyopathy: presence of above in two relatives under 60 years of age who are related to each other and the patient  
| Familial cardiomyopathy |
E. Laboratory Tests

When collecting information about laboratory tests, the minimum suggested data to capture are: 1) value, 2) unit of measurement, 3) date, and 4) normal range (upper limit of normal when appropriate). More detailed information can be collected as needed. For outpatient care, serial values should be recorded, with dates to reflect first, highest, and lowest values. For inpatient care assessment, at least the first value obtained closest to admission should be recorded.

- Sodium
- Potassium (first, highest, and lowest values)
- Calcium
- Magnesium
- TSH (thyroid-stimulating hormone)
- CBC (complete blood count)

- Blood urea nitrogen (first and highest values)
- Serum creatinine (first and highest values)
- Hemoglobin A1C
- Hemoglobin or hematocrit (specify which)
- Serum albumin
- Glucose (fasting)
- Total cholesterol
- HDL (high-density lipoprotein) cholesterol
- LDL (low-density lipoprotein) cholesterol
- Triglycerides
- INR (international normalized ratio)
- BNP (brain natriuretic peptide) or N-terminal BNP

F. Diagnostic Procedures (Table 5)

Diagnostic procedures may be noted as either having been performed or the findings described. Date of procedure should be recorded.
Table 5. Diagnostic Procedures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Element</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ejection fraction (EF)</td>
<td>Quantitative measurement of ejection fraction is preferred over qualitative measurement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Quantitative:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Ejection fraction, measured in percent</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- When a quantitative range is given, the midpoint of the range</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Qualitative:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Normal (corresponds to LVEF greater than 50%)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Mildly diminished (corresponds to LVEF 41% to 49%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Moderately diminished (corresponds to LVEF 26% to 40%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Severely diminished (corresponds to LVEF 25% or less)</td>
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<tr>
<td>When multiple determinations are present, the hierarchy should be:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Radionuclide ventriculography</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Echocardiography</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 2-dimensional</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 3-dimensional</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Contrast ventriculography</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Technetium myocardial perfusion imaging</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ejection fraction modality

Modality used to determine the ejection fraction:

• Radionuclide ventriculography
• Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)
• Echocardiography
  - 2-dimensional
  - 3-dimensional
• Contrast ventriculography
• Technetium myocardial perfusion imaging
• Other

When multiple measures are available, the most recent is preferred.

Radionuclide ventriculography
Cardiac blood pool imaging (first pass or gated equilibrium) with or without stress.
Documented findings may include:

• LVEF: percentage (range 5% to 90%) for left ventricle
• RVEF: percentage (range 5% to 90%) for right ventricle

Echocardiography
Resting two-dimensional or three-dimensional echocardiography with or without Doppler imaging.
Ejection fraction or description of left ventricular systolic function should be enumerated as above.
Other findings may include:

• Description of right ventricular size and function
• Description of focal left ventricular wall motion abnormalities
• Valvular regurgitation (mitral, aortic, tricuspid, pulmonic), by Doppler color flow mapping:
  - Qualitative descriptors: none or trace, mild, moderate, moderate-severe, severe, not evaluated
  - Quantitative descriptors: none or trace, mild, moderate, moderate-severe, severe, not evaluated
• Valvular stenosis (aortic, mitral), by continuous wave and/or pulsed wave Doppler interrogation. Maximum velocities, peak gradient, mean gradient, and/or valve area may be determined and reported using standard techniques.
• Presence or absence of pericardial echo-free space, with description of whether there is imaging and/or Doppler evidence for hemodynamic significance
• Maximum tricuspid regurgitant velocity, when present, to estimate pulmonary artery systolic pressure
• Presence or absence of evidence for left ventricular diastolic dysfunction (ratio of early to atrial transmitral filling velocity by Doppler; description of pulmonary venous Doppler inflow pattern; deceleration time, and so on)
• Presence or absence of patent foramen ovale (PFO)
• Left ventricular end-diastolic dimension (mm). M-mode, parasternal view.
• Left ventricular end-systolic dimension (mm). M-mode, parasternal view.
• Left ventricular wall thickness (mm). M-mode, parasternal view, both septum and posterior wall.
• Left atrial dimension (mm). M-mode, parasternal view, inferior vena cava (IVC) diameter.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Element</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Electrocardiography | 12-lead electrocardiography. Documented findings may include:  
  - Rhythm:  
    - Sinus rhythm  
    - Atrial fibrillation or flutter  
    - Paced or other rhythm  
  - Heart rate (beats per minute)  
  - Left bundle branch block (LBBB), Minnesota criteria (34)  
  - Right bundle branch block (RBBB), Minnesota criteria (34)  
  - Location of abnormal Q waves (≥0.03 second in width and ≥1 mm [0.1 mV] in depth in at least 2 contiguous leads)  
  - QRS duration (in milliseconds): may be reported as the measured duration, or categorically as shorter than 120 milliseconds; 121 to 150 milliseconds; or longer than 150 milliseconds  
  - Heart block:  
    - None  
    - 1st degree  
    - 2nd type 1 (Wenckebach)  
    - 2nd type 2  
    - 3rd degree |
| Chest radiography | Radiological examination of the chest. Documented findings from the chest X-ray pertinent to heart failure patients may include:  
  - Pulmonary vascular redistribution, pulmonary congestion, or pulmonary edema  
  - Cardiomegaly  
  - Pleural effusion(s) |
| Myocardial perfusion imaging | Radionuclide myocardial perfusion imaging (planar or SPECT) with or without stress (PET listed separately). Documented findings may include:  
  - Stress-induced perfusion abnormalities  
  - Fixed perfusion abnormalities  
  - Perfusion imaging LVEF: percentage 5% to 90% from LV from perfusion (technetium) imaging  
  - Regional wall motion assessment |
| Coronary angiography | Coronary angiography with or without left heart catheterization. Documented findings may include stenosis of any epicardial coronary artery (right, left anterior descending, circumflex) or major branch (diagonal, marginal). Degree (percentage) of stenosis should be specified. Coronary arteries may have insignificant or no stenosis. Bypass graft angiography may also be performed and reported. |
| Left heart catheterization | Left heart catheterization with or without coronary angiography or ventriculography. Documented findings may include:  
  - Left ventricular end diastolic pressure (mm Hg). Pressure from left ventricular catheter at end-diastole.  
  - Left ventriculography ejection fraction. Percentage 5% to 90% from left ventricular injection. |
| Right heart catheterization | Right heart catheterization with or without pulmonary angiography. Documented findings may include:  
  - RA pressure (mm Hg): mean right atrial pressure from pulmonary artery catheter  
  - PA systolic pressure (mm Hg): systolic pulmonary pressure from pulmonary artery catheter  
  - PA diastolic pressure (mm Hg): diastolic pulmonary pressure from pulmonary artery catheter  
  - Mean pulmonary artery occlusion pressure from pulmonary artery catheter (wedge pressure, mm Hg). May be recorded with or without V-wave.  
  - Cardiac output/index (liters or milliliters per minute, specify which)  
  - Pulmonary vascular resistance (Wood’s units, or dynes/second/cm)  
  - Systemic vascular resistance (dynes/second/cm²) |
| Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) | Magnetic resonance imaging (may include angiography) of the chest. Documented findings include:  
  - Ejection fraction: document ejection fraction percentage if measured as part of the MRI  
  - Ventricular volume assessment  
  - Regional wall motion assessment |
| Computerized axial tomography (CT scan) | Computerized axial tomography of the chest. Documented findings include:  
  - Ejection fraction: document ejection fraction percentage if measured as part of the CT scan  
  - Ventricular volume assessment  
  - Regional wall motion assessment |
| Heart biopsy | Biopsy of the endomyocardium. |
| Positron emission tomography (PET) | Positron emission tomography of the myocardium including perfusion imaging and stress studies. Documented findings may include:  
  - PET metabolic deficits  
  - PET baseline perfusion deficits  
  - PET metabolic/perfusion mismatch |
Many cardiovascular diseases that either play a role in causing HF or influence its course are treated with invasive therapeutic procedures. A uniform description of the type of procedure and its indication for use would enhance coherence between clinical and research databases used to follow patients with HF. The procedures listed in this section are among those frequently applied to patients who may have either impaired cardiac function or clinical HF. Date and indication should be specified for all procedures.

**Table 6. Invasive Therapeutic Procedures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Element</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery</td>
<td>The number and types of grafts and surgical approach may be further specified: Transmyocardial laser revascularization (TMLR) performed either alone or in combination with CABG. Mitral, aortic, and/or tricuspid valve surgical repair. Use of valve ring may be specified. Valve(s) and procedure(s) may be specified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valve repair</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical Procedures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery</td>
<td>The number and types of grafts and surgical approach may be further specified:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valve repair</td>
<td>Mitral, aortic, and/or tricuspid valve surgical repair. Use of valve ring may be specified. Valve(s) and procedure(s) may be specified.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 6 Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Element</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Surgical Procedures, continued</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valve replacement</td>
<td>Mitral, aortic, tricuspid, and/or pulmonic valve surgical replacement with prosthetic valve. Valve prosthesis should be specified. Valve(s) and procedure(s) may be specified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valvuloplasty</td>
<td>Valvuloplasty for stenotic valve lesions (aortic, mitral, pulmonic). Valve(s) and procedure(s) may be specified.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Ventricular remodeling surgery | Ventricular remodeling surgery may include:  
  - Aneurysctomy  
  - Anterior ventricular resection (surgical anterior ventricular restoration [SAVR], Dor procedure) |
| Surgical intervention for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy | Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy may be treated by:  
  - Septal myectomy  
  - Septal myectomy with mitral valve replacement or repair |
| Pericardiectomy | Surgical removal of the pericardium, usually because of constrictive pericardial disease or infection. |
| Pericardiocentesis, surgical | Surgical drainage of fluid in the pericardium. |
| Closure of patent foramen ovale (PFO) or atrial septal defect | Open surgical PFO closure or correction of atrial septal defect may be performed for:  
  - Stroke  
  - Left to right shunt  
  - Right to left shunt |
| Surgery for congenital heart disease |  
  - Fontan procedure  
  - Mustard procedure  
  - Senning procedure  
  - Other procedure |
| Atrial fibrillation surgery | Maze or modified Maze procedure. |
| Implantable circulatory support | May be pulsatile or non-pulsatile flow devices. Implantable circulatory support includes:  
  - Left ventricular assist device (LVAD)  
  - Right ventricular assist device (RVAD)  
  - Biventricular assist device (BiVAD)  
  - Artificial heart |
| Organ transplantation | Organ transplantation may encompass:  
  - Heart  
  - Heart/lung  
  - Lung, single/double  
  - Kidney  
  - Liver  
  - Other (may include combination of organs) |

### Electrophysiological Procedures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Element</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Permanent pacemaker implantation | Permanent pacemaker implanted, usually transvenous. Specify pacemaker placement:  
  - Dual chamber (DDD)  
  - Right ventricular (VVI)  
  - Right atrial (AAI)  
  - Anti-tachycardia  
  - Biventricular pacing for heart failure  
  - Left ventricular pacing for heart failure  
  - The brand, model number, and serial number may be recorded. |
| Implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) | Implantable cardioverter-defibrillator may be placed for:  
  - Ventricular fibrillation (VF)  
  - Symptomatic ventricular tachycardia (VT)  
  - Asymptomatic ventricular tachycardia (VT)  
  - Other (specify)  
  - Inducible VT/VF at EP study  
  - Syncope  
  - Primary prevention for patients in high risk heart failure group  
  - The brand, model number, and serial number may be recorded. |
For each pharmacological therapy element, administration or prescription of a medication in the specified class should be noted. In addition, particularly for clinical care, consider recording specific medication, total daily dose, start date, and stop date (when applicable). For combination therapies (e.g., combination diuretic and ACE inhibitor), both classes of medications should be indicated. Accurate and complete information about pharmacological therapy can be facilitated by appending a list of drugs in each class that are commonly available for the setting and population under evaluation.

For all medications recommended with Class I evidence supporting the ACC/AHA Clinical Performance Measures for Heart Failure (19), it is prudent to collect all potential contraindications. As of now, those medications include ACE inhibitors, beta-blockers, and warfarin anticoagulation (for patients with atrial fibrillation).
### Table 7. Pharmacological Therapy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Element</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Therapies for HF</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldosterone inhibitor</td>
<td>Patient has been prescribed an aldosterone inhibitor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor</td>
<td>Patient has been prescribed an angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angiotensin II receptor blocker (ARB) medication</td>
<td>Patient has been prescribed an angiotensin receptor antagonist blocker (ARB) medication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta-adrenergic antagonist (beta-blocker) medication</td>
<td>Patient has been prescribed a beta-adrenergic antagonist (beta-blocker) medication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digitalis</td>
<td>Patient has been prescribed digitalis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diuretic medication</td>
<td>Patient has been prescribed a diuretic. Aldosterone inhibitor is listed separately above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrolytes</td>
<td>Patient has been prescribed electrolytes:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrogen</td>
<td>• Potassium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnesium</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experimental drugs/clinical trial drugs</td>
<td>Patient participating in investigational new drug trial. List drug class being tested. Record date patient enrolled in trial.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intravenous (IV) inotropic agent</td>
<td>Intravenous positive inotrope administered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intravenous (IV) natriuretic peptide</td>
<td>Intravenous natriuretic peptide administered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intravenous (IV) vasodilator agents</td>
<td>Intravenous vasodilator administered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morphine sulfate</td>
<td>Morphine sulfate may be administered orally or intravenously. May be administered for pain or pulmonary edema.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrate therapy</td>
<td>Nitroglycerin may be topical, oral, or sublingual.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitroglycerin used on an as-needed basis only</td>
<td>should be noted in this category.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral vasodilators</td>
<td>Patient has been prescribed an oral vasodilator, other than specified in any above classes. Oral vasodilators most commonly prescribed for heart failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxygen therapy</td>
<td>are nitrates (see &quot;Nitrate therapy&quot;) and hydralazine. Other oral vasodilators may be prescribed to treat hypertension.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antiarrhythmic agent</td>
<td>Antiarrhythmic drug administered. As antiarrhythmics other than amiodarone are generally contraindicated in patients with heart failure, specific indications for their use should be noted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium channel blockers</td>
<td>Calcium channel blockers administered. As calcium channel blockers are generally contraindicated in patients with heart failure, specific indications for their use should be noted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lipid-lowering agent</td>
<td>Lipid-lowering agent administered. Note the type of agent: statin (HMG Co-A reductase inhibitors), fibrates, nicotinic acid, resin drugs, other.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aspirin</td>
<td>Patient has been prescribed aspirin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-aspirin anti-platelet agent</td>
<td>Patient has been prescribed a non-aspirin anti-platelet agent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warfarin</td>
<td>Patient has been prescribed warfarin. Target INR may also be helpful to collect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heparin</td>
<td>Patient has been prescribed heparin. Type of heparin may be specified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antidepressants</td>
<td>Patient has been prescribed an antidepressant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female hormone replacement therapy</td>
<td>Patient has been prescribed female hormone replacement therapy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza immunization</td>
<td>Patient has been immunized for influenza.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inhaled bronchodilator</td>
<td>Patient has been prescribed an inhaled bronchodilator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insulin</td>
<td>Patient has been prescribed insulin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID)</td>
<td>Patient has been prescribed a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug. As NSAIDs are generally contraindicated in patients with heart failure, specific indications for their use should be noted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral hypoglycemic agent</td>
<td>Patient has been prescribed an oral hypoglycemic agent for treatment of diabetes. Specify agent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumococcal immunization</td>
<td>Patient has been immunized for pneumococcal pneumonia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamins, food supplements, and other non-</td>
<td>Therapy should be specified and may include vitamins, food supplements, homeopathic treatments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prescription treatments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I. End-of-Life Management (Table 8)

Patients’ preferences for treatment, particularly life-sustaining treatments, change over time. Providers need to assess patients’ preferences regularly to help patients and family members make the appropriate choices and decisions.

Patients with HF who are near the end of life experience dyspnea and pain, and providers need to work to assure that symptoms are adequately managed and that patients remain as comfortable as possible (35). Patients and family members also require assistance from nurses and physicians in dealing with anxiety and loss.

### Table 8. End of Life Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Element</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Limitation of resuscitation</td>
<td>Any documented order or decision regarding patient request to limit a component of emergency therapy to restore circulation or ventilation (e.g., no intubation, no chest compressions).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not resuscitate (DNR)</td>
<td>Explicit documentation by physician and/or patient indicating that no resuscitative efforts are to be performed in the event of circulatory or respiratory arrest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inactivation of ICD defibrillation mode</td>
<td>Documentation of inactivation of ICD defibrillation mode without plans to re-activate (excludes inactivation for specific surgical procedures).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advance care planning</td>
<td>Documentation of discussion carried out with the patient and/or family (by physician or nurse) about advance directive.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

J. Patient Education: Assessment of Status (Table 9)

Factors that negatively influence learning and self-management, including cognitive impairment, low literacy or language skills, visual disturbances, depression, and lack of family or caregiver support, are common among HF patients (36–38), and should be assessed prior to educating patients. Additionally, patients’ understanding of and adherence to care recommendations should be assessed regularly.

### Table 9. Patient Education: Assessment of Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Element</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presence of cognitive impairment</td>
<td>Documentation in the medical record that patient is cognitively impaired. Documentation may take the form of a qualitative statement (for example, dementia) or a score on a formal mental status assessment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low literacy skills</td>
<td>Documentation in the medical record that the patient does not read or write well or is unable to read or write.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language skills</td>
<td>Documentation in the medical record of the patient’s preferred language for communication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual disturbances</td>
<td>Documentation in the medical record that the patient has impaired sight (e.g., blindness, partial blindness, macular degeneration).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing impairment (uncorrected)</td>
<td>Documentation in the medical record that the patient has an uncorrected hearing impairment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>Documentation in the medical record that the patient carries the diagnosis of depression, or that the patient demonstrates depressed mood or affect. (See section on “Medical History: Non-Cardiovascular”).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of caregiver/family support</td>
<td>Documentation in the medical record of the living situation of the patient and level of support available to the patient in current living situation. Usually this is described as good, adequate, or inadequate, or a specific problem with family support is identified.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
K. Patient Education: Intervention and Referral (Table 10)

Essential components of an educational program for patients with HF have been identified by several authors (22,39,40). Patient education may be provided by a physician or nurse. Other providers may supply specialized education (e.g., pharmacists, dietitians, exercise physiologists). Patient education is most effective when individualized, based on patient assessment, and occurs over time with reinforcement from providers. Inclusion of family members in care may facilitate learning and behavior change. Multidisciplinary and transitional care models that frequently provide strong patient educational components have been effective in reducing hospitalizations and improving quality of life among patients with HF (10–12,20,23,41,42). Date of intervention may be useful.

Table 10. Patient Education: Intervention and Referral

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Element</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medication instruction</td>
<td>Verbal and written medication instructions provided to patient and/or family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognition of worsening symptoms</td>
<td>Verbal and written instructions provided to patient and/or family (by physician or nurse) regarding worsening of symptoms and when to call the physician.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Weight counseling | May include any or all of the following elements:  
  - Verbal/written instructions regarding how to monitor/record daily weight  
  - Target weight  
  - Instructions on using a scale  
  - Instructions on what to do when weight increases, including parameters for seeking immediate help  
  - Written weight record  
  - Daily self-assessment for edema  
  - Counseling regarding fluid restriction |
| Diet counseling pertinent to lowering cardiovascular risk | Advice given or discussion carried out with the patient and/or family regarding diet counseling. May include:  
  - Sodium restriction  
  - Fluid restriction  
  - Other (specify) |
| Counseling about alcohol abstinence/restriction | Advice given or discussion carried out with the patient and/or family regarding the importance of abstaining from or reducing intake of alcohol (43,44). |
| Activity counseling | Advice given or discussion carried out with the patient and/or family regarding activity level and restrictions in activity, and/or exercise recommendations. |
| Smoking cessation counseling | Advice given or discussion carried out with the patient (by physician, nurse, or other personnel) regarding the importance of stopping smoking. May include:  
  - Counseling (may be basic or advanced)  
  - Written materials  
  - Referral to smoking cessation program  
  - Nicotine replacement therapy |
| Immunization counseling | Advice given or discussion carried out with the patient and/or family regarding the importance of obtaining influenza and pneumococcal immunizations. |
Improving health status, decreasing patients’ symptoms, and improving function and quality of life are primary goals for HF treatment and represent important outcomes for HF care. The Institute of Medicine, in Crossing the Quality Chasm (45), calls for a fundamental restructuring of the entire American health care system to establish a greater focus on optimizing patient-centered outcomes such as health status. It follows that systematic assessment using validated instruments should be incorporated into prospective clinical trials, into quality assessment registries, and ultimately insinuated throughout the process of HF care. Although such systematic assessment is not currently part of routine clinical practice, an overview of health status assessment is included in this clinical data standards document so that future applications may be more easily served.

For clinicians and others who are interested in systematically assessing the health status of their HF patients, several choices for measures exist (32,46). They fall into three general types: single-item summary measures; generic health status measures; and disease-specific instruments. Single-item summary measures are simple and quick to use, but they provide few details about the components of patients’ health status, may not be reproducible, and could have limited sensitivity to important clinical change.

Generic measures allow comparison across disease states, and capture the health status limitations of co-morbid conditions. Because these measures may be influenced by factors other than patients’ HF status, they may lack the reproducibility and sensitivity to changes in HF status desired for many of the applications anticipated in this document. Information gleaned using disease-specific measures is directly relevant to HF care, and is generally more clinically interpretable, more reliable, and more sensitive to clinical change than other assessment techniques. An overview of various instruments for each of these assessment techniques is provided in Table A1.

There is some lack of clarity with regard to the domains of health status that are being quantified with specific instruments. In fact, authors frequently use the words “symptoms,” “function,” “functional status,” “quality of life,” and “health status” interchangeably. Figure A1 is designed to provide a framework of the different components of health status (used to represent the total of patients’ experiences of symptoms, function, and quality of life). Modified from the concept of Wilson and Cleary (47) for patients with HF (48), it describes the underlying disease process of left ventricular dysfunction and neurohormonal imbalance that is manifested in patients as symptoms of fatigue, edema, and dyspnea. These symptoms can, in turn, affect patients’ physical, emotional, cognitive, and social function.

### APPENDIX A: Health Status

Improving health status, decreasing patients’ symptoms, and improving function and quality of life are primary goals for HF treatment and represent important outcomes for HF care. The Institute of Medicine, in Crossing the Quality Chasm (45), calls for a fundamental restructuring of the entire American health care system to establish a greater focus on optimizing patient-centered outcomes such as health status. It follows that systematic assessment using validated instruments should be incorporated into prospective clinical trials, into quality assessment registries, and ultimately insinuated throughout the process of HF care. Although such systematic assessment is not currently part of routine clinical practice, an overview of health status assessment is included in this clinical data standards document so that future applications may be more easily served.

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### Table A1. Measures of Health Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Instrument</th>
<th>Self-Administered</th>
<th>Number of Items</th>
<th>Domains</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Disease Specific Measures for Heart Failure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Heart Failure Questionnaire (49)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>• Dyspnea during daily activities</td>
<td>Interview-administered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Fatigue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Emotional function</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City Cardiomyopathy Questionnaire (32)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>• Physical limitation</td>
<td>More recent instrument with less published experience than other measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Symptoms (frequency, severity and recent change)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Quality of life</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Social function</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Self-efficacy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Summary scores</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota Living with Heart Failure Questionnaire (50)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>• Physical</td>
<td>Used in many previous clinical trials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Emotional</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Total–quality of life</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York Heart Association Classification (30)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>• Physical limitation and symptoms are assessed by a clinician and assigned a score of I–IV</td>
<td>Most commonly used measure of functional status; however, a coarse measure from the physician’s rather than the patient’s point of view</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Generic Health Status Measures</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EuroQol (51)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>• Mobility</td>
<td>Can be converted into a health utility measure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Self-care</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Usual activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Pain/discomfort</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Anxiety/depression</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nottingham Health Profile (52)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>• Sleep</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Pain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Emotional reactions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Social isolation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Physical mobility</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Energy level</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of Well-Being Scale (53)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>• Mobility</td>
<td>Can be converted into a health utility measure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Physical activity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Symptoms/problems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF-12 (21)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>• Physical Component Score</td>
<td>Less response burden than SF-36; however, provides only summary measures of physical and mental function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Mental Component Score</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF-36 (54)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>• Physical functioning</td>
<td>Most frequently used health status measure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Role–emotional</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Mental health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Role–physical</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Bodily pain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• General health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Vitality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Social functioning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sickness Impact Profile (55)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>• Activities of daily living including physical and psychosocial interactions</td>
<td>Documented validity, reliability, and sensitivity; frequently used; however, significant response burden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Single-Item Rating Scales</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Assessment (56)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Generally a 5-point Likert scale rating current health or change in health</td>
<td>Simple; however, validity, reliability and responsiveness may be poor. The greater the duration of time that a global health assessment of change is supposed to quantify, the poorer the validity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-item Visual Analogue Scale (57,58)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Generally rates current health along a continuum of death to perfect health</td>
<td>Simple; however, can be difficult to score, may not be reliable or sufficiently valid</td>
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</table>
Figure A1. Health status components. Quality of life is a distinct concept that refers to patients’ integration of their current symptoms and functioning with their desired symptoms and functioning. In other words, are patients living as they would like to? The greater the discrepancy between patients’ desired and actual health, the worse is their quality of life. Different instruments capture different domains to a varying extent, and those designing clinical studies, quality improvement registries, and quality assessment programs need to be explicit with regard to which domains of patients’ experiences they wish to quantify.

**APPENDIX B: ACC/AHA Heart Failure Clinical Data Standards Writing Committee—Relationships With Industry**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee Member</th>
<th>Research Grant</th>
<th>Speakers Bureau/Honoraria/Expert Witness</th>
<th>Stock Ownership</th>
<th>Consultant/Advisory Board</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. J. Malcolm O. Arnold</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Aventis, Merck-Frosst, Novartis, Pfizer</td>
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<td>Aventis, Merck-Frosst, Novartis, Pfizer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Susan J. Bennett</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Michael P. Cinquegrani</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None, Medtronic, Pfizer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. John G. F. Cleland</td>
<td>Roche, Agilent, Medtronic, Servier</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Edward P. Havranek</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>Dr. Paul A. Heidenreich</td>
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<td>Dr. Martha J. Radford</td>
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<td>Dr. John D. Rutherford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. John A. Spertus</td>
<td>CVT</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Amgen, CVT, Orqis, Otsuka, World Heart, Medtronic, Novacardia, Scios</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Lynne Warner Stevenson</td>
<td>Medtronic</td>
<td>None</td>
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APPENDIX C: Peer Reviewers of the ACC/AHA Heart Failure Clinical Data Standards Writing Committee—Relationships With Industry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reviewer Name</th>
<th>Representation</th>
<th>Research Grant</th>
<th>Speakers Bureau</th>
<th>Stock Ownership</th>
<th>Consultant/Advisory Board</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Alan S. Brown</td>
<td>ACCF Board of Trustees</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Lynn Doering, RN</td>
<td>American Heart Association</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>Dr. Robert Hong</td>
<td>ACCF Board of Governors</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>Dr. Sharon Ann Hunt</td>
<td>ACC/AHA HF Guideline (Chair)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Jagat Narula</td>
<td>American Heart Association</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Rita Redberg</td>
<td>ACC/AHA Task Force on Data Standards Lead Reviewer</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
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Content Reviewers

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<th>Reviewer Name</th>
<th>Representation</th>
<th>Research Grant</th>
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<th>Stock Ownership</th>
<th>Consultant/Advisory Board</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Nancy Albert</td>
<td>AHA Heart Failure and Transplant Committee</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>• Medtronic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Charles Canter</td>
<td>AHA Heart Failure and Transplant Committee</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Stanley Cortell</td>
<td>AHA Heart Failure and Transplant Committee</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Maryl Johnson</td>
<td>ACCF Heart Failure and Transplant Clinical Committee</td>
<td>None</td>
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</table>

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American College of Cardiology Foundation
Christine W. McEntee, Chief Executive Officer
Joseph M. Allen, MA, Director, Clinical Decision Support
Frances F. Fiocchi, MPH, Associate Director, Research and Innovation
Susan L. Morrisson, Associate Specialist, Clinical Performance Measurement

American Heart Association
M. Cass Wheeler, Chief Executive Officer
Fernando Costa, MD, FAHA, Staff Scientist

REFERENCES

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ACC/AHA Key Data Elements and Definitions for Measuring the Clinical Management and Outcomes of Patients With Chronic Heart Failure: A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Clinical Data Standards (Writing Committee to Develop Heart Failure Clinical Data Standards): Developed in Collaboration With the American College of Chest Physicians and the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation: Endorsed by the Heart Failure Society of America


_Circulation_. 2005;112:1888-1916; originally published online September 14, 2005; doi: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.105.170073

Circulation is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231
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Print ISSN: 0009-7322. Online ISSN: 1524-4539

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