



CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE

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Guideline Subject: Pharmacologic Management of Congestive Heart Failure

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Obsoletes: 10/98, 3/00, 5/02, 8/04, 2/05, 5/07, 12/09, 12/10


Medical Management Committee Chair

Date

I. PURPOSE:

To define the standard of care for Pharmacologic Management of Congestive Heart Failure for eligible members of the Denver Health Medical Plan, Inc. (DHMP).

II. POPULATION:

Adult (21 and older) members with established diagnoses of congestive heart failure and documented, symptomatic left ventricular systolic dysfunction.

III. GUIDELINE:

- A. Heart failure represents a very significant number of hospitalizations, and at Denver Health this diagnosis is among the top 3 reasons for multiple hospital admissions for individuals, including members of DHMP. This high volume and high risk diagnosis can be improved with adherence to current standards of pharmacological care of CHF, some of which are neglected according to recently published studies of heart failure patients.
- B. DHMP supports the ACCF/AHA Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Congestive Heart Failure in Adults (see reference link below).

IV. GOALS:

- A. At least 90% of patients with CHF due to systolic dysfunction will be treated with an ACE inhibitor or ARB. ARBs will be used in patients unable to tolerate ACE's.
- B. At least 80% of patients with CHF due to systolic dysfunction (and no contra-indications to a beta blocker) will be treated with a beta-blocking agent (carvedilol long acting or metoprolol).
- C. At least 70% of patients with class III or IV CHF due to systolic dysfunction and a creatinine ≤ 2.5 in men or ≤ 2.0 in women or creatinine clearance > 30 ml/minute will be treated with a spironolactone. Patients will be monitored for development of hyperkalemia.
- D. At least 90% of patients with a diagnosis of CHF will have had their ejection fraction evaluated by echocardiogram.

V. REFERENCE: (This is the most updated reference available and is the reference used by Denver Health.)

[2009 Focused Update: ACCF/AHA Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Heart Failure in Adults: A Report of the American College of Cardiology Foundation/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines Developed in Collaboration With the In](#)

NOTE:

This guideline is designed to assist providers by providing an analytical framework for the evaluation and treatment of patients, and is not intended either to replace a clinician's judgment or to establish a protocol for all patients with a particular condition.