

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

Measure Information Form

Measure Set: Heart Failure (HF)

Set Measure ID#: HF-2

Performance Measure Name: Evaluation of LVS Function

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

Rationale: Appropriate selection of medications to reduce morbidity and mortality in heart failure requires the identification of patients with impaired left ventricular systolic function. National guidelines advocate the evaluation of left ventricular systolic function as the single most important diagnostic test in the management of all patients with heart failure (Hunt, 2005). Despite these recommendations, left ventricular systolic function is not evaluated in a substantial proportion of eligible older patients hospitalized with heart failure (Jencks, 2000).

Type of Measure: Process

Improvement Noted As: An increase in the rate

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

Included Populations: Not Applicable

Excluded Populations: None

Data Elements:
LVF Assessment

Denominator Statement: Heart failure patients

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

Excluded Populations:

- Patients less than 18 years of age
- Patients transferred to another acute care hospital or federal hospital
- Patients who expired
- Patients who left against medical advice
- Patients discharged to hospice
- Patients with comfort measures only documented by a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant
- Patients with reasons documented by a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant for no LVS function evaluation
- Patients who had a left ventricular assistive device (LVAD) or heart transplant procedure during hospital stay (ICD-9-CM procedure code for LVAD and heart transplant as defined in Appendix A, Table 2.2)

Data Elements:

- *Admission Date*
- *Birthdate*
- *Comfort Measures Only*
- *Discharge Status*
- *ICD-9-CM Other Procedure Codes*
- *ICD-9-CM Principal Diagnosis Code*
- *ICD-9-CM Principal Procedure Code*
- *LVF Assessment*

Risk Adjustment: No

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

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

Measure Analysis Suggestions: None

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

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

Selected References:

- Bonow RO, Bennett S, Casey DE, Ganiats TG, Hlatky MA, Konstam MA, Lambrew CT, Normand ST, Piña IL, Radford MJ, Smith AL, Stevenson L. ACC/AHA Clinical Performance Measures for Adults With Chronic Heart Failure: a report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Performance Measures (Writing Committee to Develop Heart Failure Clinical Performance Measures). *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2005;46:1144–78. Available at <http://www.acc.org> and <http://www.americanheart.org>.

- Hunt SA. ACC/AHA 2005 guideline update for the diagnosis and management of chronic heart failure in the adult: a report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines (Writing Committee to Update the 2001 Guidelines for the Evaluation and Management of Heart Failure). *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2005; 46(6):e1-82.
- Jencks SJ, Cuerdon T, Burwen DR, Fleming B, Houck PM, Kussmaul AE, Nilasena DS, Ordin DL, Arday DR. Quality of medical care delivered to Medicare beneficiaries: a profile at state and national levels. *JAMA*. 2000;284:1670-1676.

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