

CHF QUERI: 2009 Improvement Products (Including Economic Analyses)

Description	Scope	Goal
A field for the left ventricular ejection fraction is now available within CPRS (flow sheets package). The documentation of an LVEF is a Mission Critical Measure for inpatients with heart failure.	VA	2
National web-based teleconferences on processes of heart failure care with a specific focus on barriers and facilitators to improve the quality of care for heart failure patients. These discussions occur during the national live meetings and conference calls conducted for the HF Network. A multi-disciplinary team co-moderated by Dr. Robert Jesse and QUERI Coordinators consists of Chiefs of Cardiology, Chiefs of Medicine, Chiefs of Staff, cardiologists, physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists, researchers and others.	VA	1
Presentation of successful heart failure programs during the bi-monthly sessions conducted at the national level for the HF Network. These programs have been focusing on key areas like starting or reinventing HF programs, CHF guidelines, emergency department, pharmacy, medication titration, telehealth, continued education for providers, patient education, shared medical appointments, team approach and multi-disciplinary approach.	VA	1
Implementation of a reminder for beta-blockers attached to the echocardiography report. This has been implemented at 10 facilities across 9 VISNs.	VA	2
Screening of heart failure patients at the Palo Alto VA HCS for improvement in care and referral for home- monitoring, receiving patient education materials, or have a specialist review their medical chart and give recommendations to their primary care provider. As the next step ongoing discussions with VISN23 leadership to conduct the project for this VISN will be undertaken. VISN 3 has expressed interest is using this tool and we are discussing partnership for this project.	Palo Alto VA	1
CHF QUERI has worked with VISNs in the Save Five Million Lives Campaign (IHI Initiative) to document impacts of their interventions on outcome.	VA	1
Though the VHA has signed up for the ACC/IHI's H2H Initiative , based on suggestion by Dr. Robert Jesse, the CHF QUERI is implementing the H2H initiative at the VA facilities through the HF Network. This initiative focuses on a smooth transition of discharging HF patients from hospital to home.	VA	1
CHF QUERI is analyzing the results of the HF Care Group Survey conducted through the HF Network to understand how providers (physicians, nurses and others) work as a team to take care of HF patients.	VA	1
In partnership with the Office of Care Coordination, the CHF QUERI is working on standardizing the Disease Management Protocol for Heart Failure which will be used by OCC's for all for 4 vendors at all the VA facilities. We expect to provide the completed product to OCC in January 2010.	VA	4
Cost-Effectiveness of a Nurse Based Program for Heart Failure Patients has been established for VISN 21	VISN21	1

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<p>Patient medication sheet with pictures of the medications. We worked with Pharmacy Benefits Management and the Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy and this option is now available through a link to all VAs that will allow the creation of patient specific lists of mailed prescriptions with medication images.</p>	VA	4
<p>General HF information has been posted to the MHV website to educate patients and caregivers.</p>	VA	4
<p>HF Assessment Tool posted on the MHV website to help veterans better understand and evaluate the care they are receiving for heart failure. The questions with embedded branching logic are designed to help the patient determine if their care is meeting current recommendations for heart failure care.</p>	VA	4
<p>Online version of the health status measure: Kansas City Cardiomyopathy Questionnaire (KCCQ) is in the process of being posted on the MHV website. This self-administered instrument will assess the health status for heart failure patients. It quantifies physical function, symptoms (frequency, severity and recent change), social function, self-efficacy and knowledge, and quality of life.</p>	VA	4
<p>Heart failure related patient education materials posted on the CHF QUERI's website and the My Health E-Vet websites for patients and caregivers.</p>	VA	4
<p>Caregiver materials posted on the CHF QUERI's website and the My Health E-Vet websites.</p>	VA	4
<p>A list and description successful HF programs is posted on CHF QUERI's website for use by providers to start, review or improve the current care at their clinics.</p>	VA	1
<p>CHF QUERI has collaborated with National Heart Failure Training (N-HeFT) Program to encourage additional education of primary care providers in heart failure. Based on involvement of Ileana Piña (Executive Committee member) this product seeks to educate providers in best practices for treating heart failure. Qualified cardiology teams meet with heart failure experts to share clinical challenges in the management of heart failure at a host site of choice. The program is especially helpful to cardiologists interested in setting up a heart failure program.</p>	VA	1
<p>ICD Registry to track veterans who have ICDs implanted within and outside the VA. Edmund Keung (EC member) is the Director of this VA National ICD Surveillance Center Registry</p>	VA	2