

Re-Inventing the HF Program at Tucson VA

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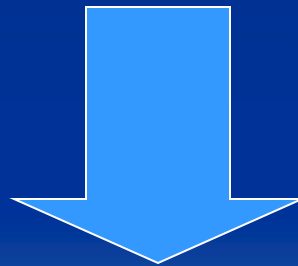
Background

- Southern Arizona VA Health Care System
 - Referral area for all Arizona, part of New Mexico & western Texas
 - University of Arizona & Sarver Heart Center
- Dr. Steven Goldman
- Prior SAVAHCS HF program
 - Part-time near-retired cardiologist
 - Part-time HF NP



Background

- HF Performance Measures
- New academic cardiologist
 - Basic science research in HF
- New dedicated HF NP



RE-INVENT HF PROGRAM

Background

- Consistently w/in 95% benchmark for EPRP for HF
- Despite that, SAVAHCS HF Program:
 - Lack of focus
 - 30-day post-hospitalization follow-up
 - Transplant patients
 - Device referral and follow-up



Goals

- Focus on AHA HF Stage C
- Transplant care coordination
 - Conjunction with U of A
- Device management
- Enrollment in clinical trials



Outline

- Outpatient clinics
- Inpatient care
- Device / remote monitoring
- Transplant
- Clinical trials
- Outstanding Issues



Documentation First !

- New HF Templates
 - Medications by class & titration scale
 - Revascularization / viability
 - ICD / Remote monitoring
 - CHF study enrollment potential
 - Vaccines / smoking / weight / afib
 - Document education done
 - Information for referring MD

Can be sent to you if requested ...

Outpatient Clinics

- All consults for HF screened by NP
- Post-hospitalization f/u captured by NP
- 4 half-day clinics (MD & NP)
- 1 urgent slot each clinic
- *Active or decompensated* HF patients
- *Stable* ... returned to PCP or general cardiology clinic



Outpatient Clinics

- Patient education
 - Individually & with hand-outs
 - Group clinics ... TBA
 - 8-10 patients
 - 30 minutes
 - Cardiology Fellow
 - Social service required for fellowship



Multi-Disciplinary HF Clinic

- Staff
 - Cardiologist
 - HF fellow
 - HF NP
 - Pacemaker RN
 - Sonographer
 - Pharmacist
 - +/- Electrophysiologist
- 1 half day clinic / wk
- “Round-Robin”
 - Device check
 - Echo guided AV Opt
 - Med reconciliation
 - Fluid assessment
 - Education materials

START DATE SEPT 2008 ... 1st in Tucson



Inpatient Care

- Cardiology Fellow on CCU
- Occasional dedicated HF fellow
- Transitional end-stage devices not available at our VA
 - LVAD, RVAD, artificial hearts ... U of A
- Discharge RN protocol
 - Not under cardiology jurisdiction
- Area of potential growth if more FTE



Devices & Remote Monitoring

- Area of interest
- New electrophysiologist
- Approx ~150 patients with active devices with potential for remote monitoring
- Cooperation & coordination with industry
- Data management ... BIG ISSUE



Devices & Remote Monitoring

- Pacer RN & HF NP
- Goal to follow-remote data 1 day per week
 - VT episodes
 - ATP, tachyarrhythmias
 - Fluid management, HRV, activity
 - % Bi-V pacing
- Multi-disciplinary HF Clinic



Transplant

- ~30 patients
- ~20 patients followed University of Arizona Cardiac Transplant Team
 - 6 coordinators
 - Re-establish working relationship
- Annual work-ups & biopsies
- Immunosuppression



Clinical Trials

- At any time, 5-10 active enrolling HF trials
 - VA sponsored & industry
- Ask *all* HF patients if they are interested → forward to research coordinator
 - Prompt in HF template
- Research coordinator rounds with CCU team daily & in fellows clinic
- Increased study enrollment



Definition of Success

- Benchmarks
 - 30-day re-admission rate
 - Measurement of LVEF ... we do this well
 - Post-hospitalization follow-up
 - High risk in 48 hrs
- Personal
 - Remote monitoring
 - Multi-disciplinary HF Clinic



Outstanding Issues

- Dedicated pharmacist
- Separate careline TELEHEALTH
 - No integration with cardiology
- Some patients live in Mexico
 - No ability for remote monitoring
- HF Admission Orders
- Work-load capture of remote monitoring



Leadership & Staff

- VA Chief of Cardiology, Dr. Steven Goldman
- HF & Imaging, Dr. Elizabeth Juneman
- EP, Dr. Sergio Thal
- Interventional, Dr. Hoang Thai
- Transplant / Interventional, Dr. Reza Movahed
- HF NP, Elaine Charteris
- EP NP, Mary K Pierce
- Pacer RN, Lori Pack



Questions?

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