

HEART FAILURE DEFINITIONS

Assessment of left ventricular function: Percent of all eligible heart failure patients who had their left ventricular function (heart's ability to pump blood) measured while in the hospital.

Assessment of left ventricular function (LVF), or the heart's ability to pump blood effectively, is the standard of care for heart failure patients. At DHMC, 100% of 235 eligible patients were assessed for their heart's left ventricular function.

ACE Inhibitor or ARB medications at discharge for heart failure patients: Percent of eligible patients who received a prescription for ACE inhibitor or ARB medications at discharge from the hospital.

Angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor and angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB) medications have been shown to help prevent further heart problems in heart failure patients. ACE inhibitors or ARB medications should be prescribed for heart failure patients when they leave the hospital.

Discharge instructions: Percent of eligible patients who were given complete instructions about follow-up and how to care for themselves at home after discharge from the hospital for heart failure.

Complete discharge instructions for patients with a heart failure condition include information about: diet, level of activity, medications, signs of worsening symptoms, weight monitoring, and the next doctor's appointment after discharge.

Advice for heart failure patients to quit smoking: Percent of eligible heart failure patients who were advised to quit smoking.

Giving advice about quitting smoking is important for heart failure patients who are smokers, or who have smoked within the past year.