

What is it? A chart flag that may be affixed to your Harmony patients' inpatient charts by our concurrent review nurses when they identify the patients as having the diagnosis of CHF.

Purpose: To recommend left heart evaluation be done to establish the diagnosis of CHF and therapy with ACEIs and possibly Selective Beta-Adenergetic Blockers be instituted.



Attention Physician
CONGESTIVE HEART FAILURE

Recommendations based on Treatment Guidelines from the Medical Letter, April 2003, and from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality:

- **ACE Inhibitors**
- **Selective Beta-Adenergetic Blockers:**
Unless there is a specific contraindication, all patients with left heart failure due to left ventricular dysfunction should take both an ACE inhibitor and a selective beta-blocker because they have been shown to favorably influence the long-term prognosis of heart failure.
- **Measure left ventricular function** during initial evaluation by one of the following methods:
 - Echo cardiography
 - MUGA
 - Cardiac catheterization with L ventriculogram

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