

Heart Failure (HF) Care

In heart failure, the heart does not do an adequate job circulating blood throughout the body.

- In one type of heart failure, the heart is enlarged and weak and is therefore unable to squeeze enough blood out into the blood vessels with each beat.
- In another form of heart failure, the walls of the heart become stiff so that the heart is unable to relax and fill with enough blood between beats.

In either case, fluid backs up into the lungs and the rest of the body, causing shortness of breath, swelling of the limbs and other symptoms. The right HF treatment (guidelines) can help improve a heart failure patient's quality of life.

At Doylestown Hospital, all HF patients undergo specific tests and receive medication to improve their heart function based on the latest Evidenced Based Care Measures based research findings. Lifestyle counseling is also provided to help address ways a patient can help improve their health after discharge from the hospital.

The Heart Failure guidelines used at Doylestown hospital for the diagnosis and management of heart failure are from a joint effort of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the American Heart Association (AHA), and have been developed in collaboration with the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation. The newest guidelines released in 2005, are published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC) and Circulation: Journal of the American Heart Association.

Evidenced Based Care Measures for Heart Failure:

As with many diseases, early detection and quality treatment are the cornerstones of successful treatment

- [Complete and written discharge instructions](#)
- [Evaluation of Left Ventricular Systolic \(LVS\) Function](#)
- [Angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor \(ACEI\) or Angiotensin Receptor Blocker \(ARB\) for patients with Left Ventricular Systolic Dysfunction \(LVSD\)](#)
- [Adult Smoking Cessation Advice/Counseling for patients who smoke or have smoked in last year](#)

Doylestown Results:

2006	2007	2008	Pennsylvania Rate*
Discharge Instructions			
82%	81.8%	84.7%	79.5%
Evaluation of LVS Function			
98.9%	99%	99.2%	
ACEI or ARB for LVSD			
84.5%	90.1%	96.2%	91.3%
Smoking Cessation Counseling			
94.1%	100%	100%	

*Pennsylvania average rate; source: www.phcqa.org. Accessed 4/10/2009.