

**HEART FAILURE MANAGEMENT**  
*Standards of Care*

Benchmark hospital LOS (DRG 127): 2 Days - decompensation from volume overload  
3.8 Days - complicated decompensation

**INITIAL EVALUATION:**

- Determine Symptomatic Decompensation (EFs, MUGA, CATS) - Compare new Echo to 1 yr ago with EF  $\pm$  4%
- Determine Etiology beyond LV function
- ICMP, TSH, T4, ECG, CXR, CBC, Hepatic function studies
- Determine NYHA Functional Class
- Admit for blood tests, update RVEF, PET scan

**NON-PHARMACOLOGIC THERAPIES:**

- Fluid Restriction  $\times$  2 L/day (2000 cc/day)
- May  $\times$  1500 cc/day with Serum Na<sup>+</sup>  $\geq$  130 mEq/L
- 2 gm Sodium Diet for HF (Class II)
- 2 gm Sodium Diet for decompensated HF (Class III/IV)
- Cardiac Rehab Consult for Phase II program (if not home bound)
- Home Health Consult (if homebound)
- Dietary Consult
- Social Service Consult
- medication treatment plan

Assess if patient has a scale at home  $\rightarrow$  daily weight monitoring  
Patient education regarding diet, medications, fluid management (preventing daily weights, "goal" weight, and how to treat weight increases), activity, and signs & symptoms of worsening condition.

**SYSTOLIC DYSFUNCTION PHARMACOLOGIC THERAPIES**

- NYHA Class III/IV for volume overload
  - Maintain diuresis with aggressive dosing with symptoms
  - Add Thiazide drug for synergistic response as necessary
- diuresis based on weight, age, gender, creatinine clearance and concomitant meds
- Diuretic dose as tolerated
  - Do not use furosemide  $\times$  20 mg IV, or potassium  $\times$  40 mEq
  - Begin therapy if SBP  $\times$  90 mmHg without vasodilator therapy or  $\times$  80 mmHg and severe symptoms with other vasodilator therapy
  - Begin therapy if serum sodium  $\times$  134 mEq/L
  - Alternative to ACEI: hydralazine/nitroglycerin combination or Angiotensin II Receptor Blocker
  - Do not add vasodilator unless SBP  $\times$  85 mmHg or SBP at orthostatic mental decompensation or stroke output
- Thiazide to Thiazolidine dosing
- Use in NYHA Class III/IV decompensated HF
  - Do not use if not of hepatic failure, bronchospasm, heart block or SBP without permanent pacemaker, renal decompensation NYHA Class IV, symptoms and hypotension or SCHEMIC cardiomyopathy, AIB and

VASODILATORS	START	TARGET	MAX
Captopril (Capoten)	6.25 - 12.5 tid	50 bid	100 tid
Enalapril (Vasotec)	2.5 - 5 bid	10 bid	20 bid
Lisinopril (Prinivil, Zestril)	2.5 - 5 qd	20 qd	40 qd
Losartan (Cobaxar)	12.5 - 25 qd	50 qd	50 bid or 100 qd
Hydralazine (Apresoline)	25 qd	50 - 75 qd	100 qd
Isosorbide dinitrate (Isordil)	10 - 20 tid	20 - 80 tid	80 tid
Isosorbide mononitrate (Imdur)	30 qd	60 - 120 qd	240 qd

DIURETICS	START	TARGET	MAX
Furosemide	20 - 40 qd	As Required	480 qd
HCTZ*	25 qd	As Required	200 qd
Melitzone*	2.5 qd	As Required	5 qd
Spironolactone	25 qd	As Required	50 bid

\*Watch K<sup>+</sup> carefully; May cause hyponatremia; Give 30 minutes before loop agent.

BETA-BLOCKER	START	TARGET
Carvedilol (Coreg)	3.125 bid	25 mg bid if $\leq$ 85kg 50 mg bid if $\geq$ 85kg

**DIGOXIN ADMINISTRATION CHART**

Corrected creatinine clearance (CCC) formula =  $\left( \frac{1.40 - \text{Age}}{\text{Serum Creatinine}} \right) \times X$   
 $X = 1.0$  males  
 $X = 0.85$  females

CCC	Digoxin Daily Maintenance Dose (mg / day)									
	Corrected Creatinine Clearance (CCC)* formula above									
	Body Weight in kg (lbs.)									
10	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125
20	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125
30	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125
40	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125
50	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125
60	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125
70	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125
80	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125
90	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125
100	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125