

# **Integrated Heart Failure (HF) CoP Webinar:**

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**Topic: Enhancing Integrated Heart Failure Care  
Through the Spoke-Hub-Node Framework**

November 15th, 2024



**Ontario  
Health**



# Land Acknowledgement

*Emma Esselink | Lead, Community Health – OH East Region*

# Agenda

TIME	TOPIC	NAME
<b>12:00 pm</b>	Land Acknowledgement	Emma Esselink
<b>12:05 pm</b>	Welcome & Introductions Housekeeping	Colleen Lackey & Emma Esselink
<b>12:10 pm</b>	Enhancing Integrated Heart Failure Care Through the Spoke-Hub-Node Framework	Colleen Lackey & Dr. Aws Almufleh
<b>12:40 pm</b>	Q&A	All
<b>12:55 pm</b>	Wrap Up	Colleen Lackey & Emma Esselink

# Housekeeping



- Please keep yourself on mute unless you are speaking.



- We encourage you to type your questions or comments in the chat box. The chat box is monitored throughout the webinar. Questions will be addressed directly in the chat box or in the discussion following the presentations.



- We also encourage you to share any suggestions/topics for future webinars.

- This meeting **will be recorded**. A copy of the webinar recording, and slides will be available on the virtual CoP shared space.

# Poll #1 – Who is joining us today?

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What is your role?

- Primary Care Physician
- Specialist
- Health professional across the continuum of care
- OHT Backbone Team Member
- OHT Partner (OHaH, Community paramedics, rehab, hospital admins)
- Data Lead or Quality Specialists
- Patient, Family and/or Caregiver
- OH/MOH/RISE
- Other

# Enhancing Integrated Heart Failure Care Through the Spoke-Hub-Node Framework

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Speaker:

Colleen Lackey RN MHsc- OH Clinical Lead – Heart Failure

# The Burden of Heart Failure in Ontario

2.9% of Ontario's adult population are responsible for 20% of acute hospital resource use

~ 330,000 people with Heart Failure (HF)

44,000 new cases/year

Approx half of HF patients are 80+ years and have 3 other major co-morbidities

~200,000 all-cause admissions

440,000 all-cause ED visits annually

6,500 beds

~29,000 HF admissions

35,000 HF ED visits annually

800 beds

~\$3.4B in inpatient and Emergency Department care

\$220M in QBP funding across 59 hospitals

Improved quality of care of heart failure in Ontario needs an integrated approach to avoid acute care utilization as the 'default' for patients



50% of people will die within 2.5 years of first hospitalization for heart failure

# Complexity of Heart Failure



## Complex Symptoms:

Shortness of breath; Fatigue, Fluid Retention-  
Can mimic other conditions which makes it  
challenging to diagnosis early and manage

More complex HF cases often require  
collaboration with cardiologists and other  
specialists to ensure comprehensive care is  
provided



## Multiple Etiology's:

Can result from coronary artery disease,  
hypertension, cardiomyopathy, or valvular  
disease etc which makes it challenging to  
determine the underlying cause of the  
disease

Timely referrals to advanced treatments like  
ventricular devices (VAD) or cardiac surgery  
are important



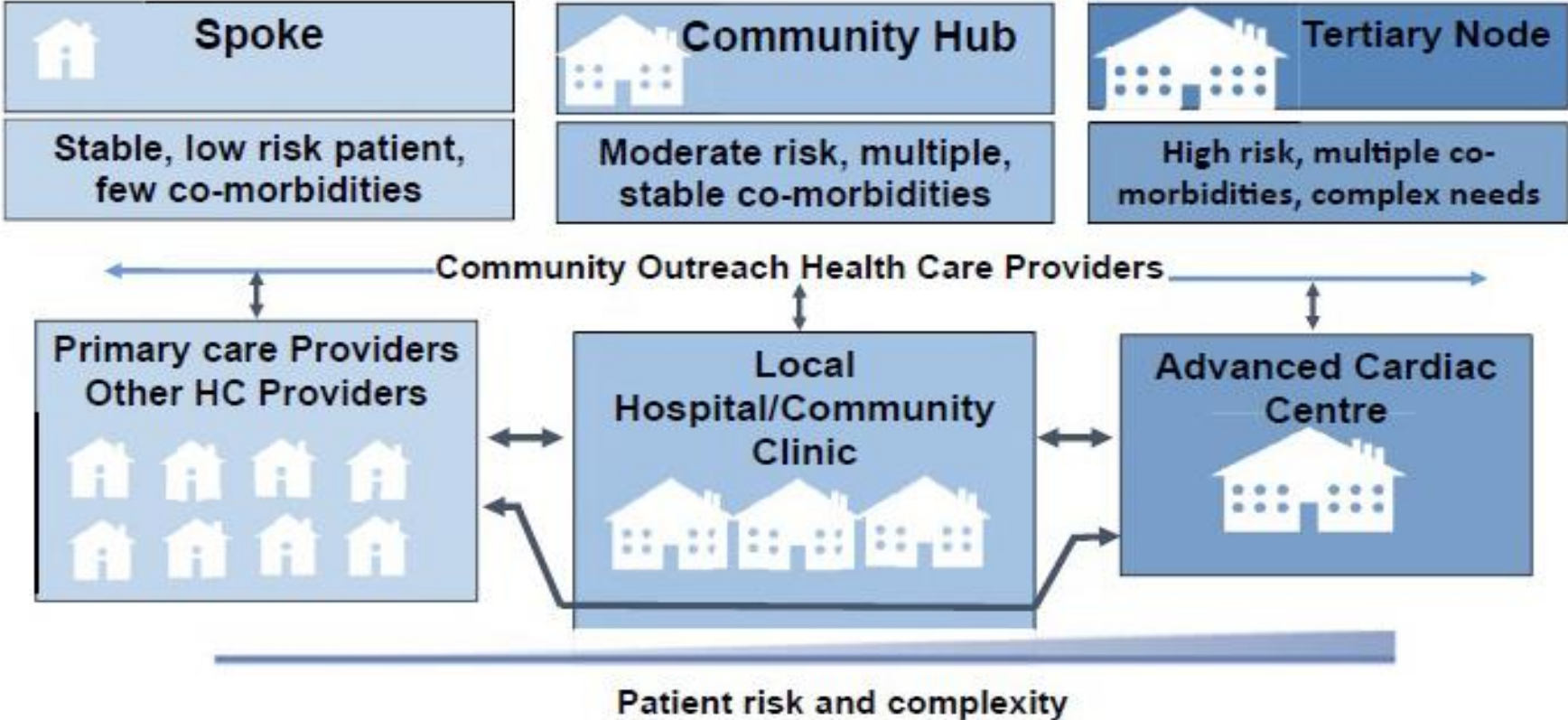
## Different Stages of the Disease and Comorbid Conditions

Management requires nuanced medication  
titration which are more complicated as the  
stage of the disease progresses

As the complexity of the HF condition  
increase, these patients require more regular  
follow up and revisions in treatment plans to  
improve outcomes and symptoms

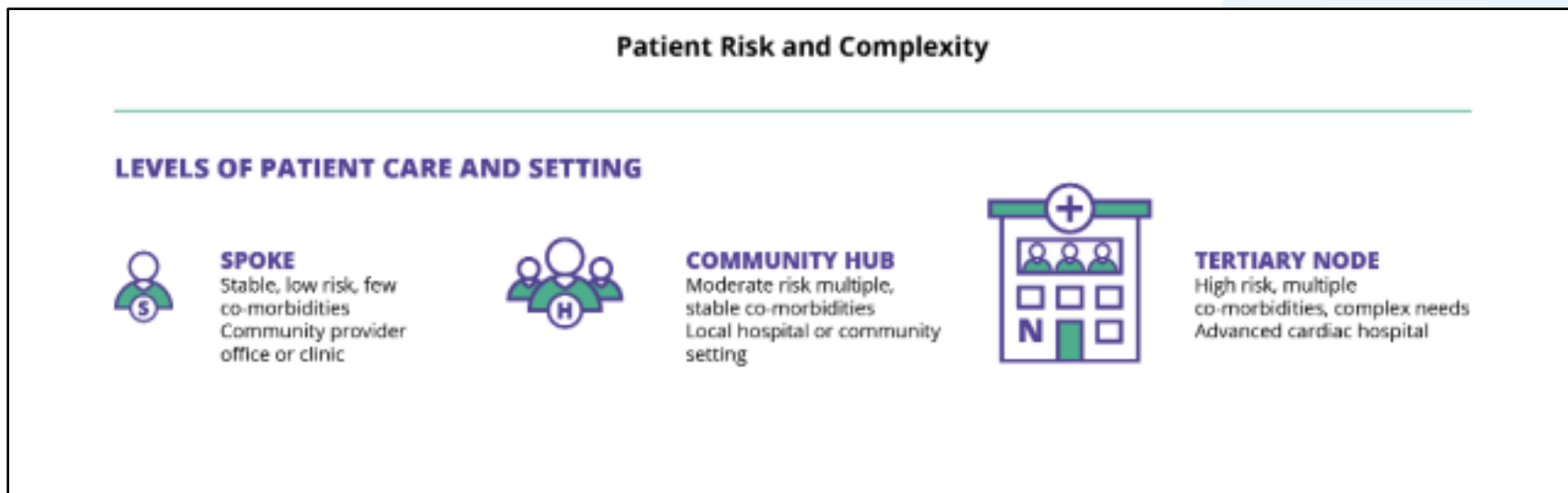


# Best Practice for Heart Failure Care



Specialized Heart Failure Care is Provided in the Hub and Node

Spoke	Hub	Node
Primary Care	Internal Medicine Clinic	Regional Cardiac Hospital
Unattached Clinics	Community Cardiology Clinic	



A Local Network and Team – Supporting the Patient & Caregiver  
Seamless Transitions When Care Needs Escalate or Deescalate

# Evidence for Specialised Heart Failure Care

## Ontario

- **HQO Heart failure Care in the Community. Quality Statement 8: Specialized Multidisciplinary Care. Health Quality Ontario. Updated 2022.** People with newly diagnosed heart failure, those who have recently been hospitalized or treated in the emergency department for heart failure(HF), and those with advanced heart failure (NYHA III–IV) are ***offered a referral to specialized multidisciplinary care for heart failure***
- **Corehealth The Spoke-Hub-Node Model of Heart Failure Care. Published 2019.** The Spoke-Hub-Node model is a framework for integrated HF care. This framework outlines the requirements for spoke, hub, and node levels of HF care provision. ***Specialized care outside of primary care is detailed in the hub and node description.***
- **Ontario Health technology Assessment Series. Vol 12: November 2012. *Specialized community-based care effectively improves outcomes*** in patients with heart failure, COPD, and diabetes. The effectiveness of SCBC in family practice is unclear.

## Canada

- **Canadian Cardiovascular Society Guidelines. Heart Failure. Management of HF. 2017, updated guidelines anticipated in 2024/25.** They provide recommendations on who to refer to specialized care to reduce mortality and improve patient outcomes
- **HeartLife Foundation. Heart Failure Policy Framework. 2024.** National patient-led Heart Failure organization. Patient Charter Principles #5, ***Access to multidisciplinary care team throughout my journey that includes a heart failure specialist, a nurse, a pharmacist, mental health support, a dietician, a cardiac rehab specialist, and my general practitioner.***

# Integrated HF Care Initiative- Launched Spring 2022

## Goal

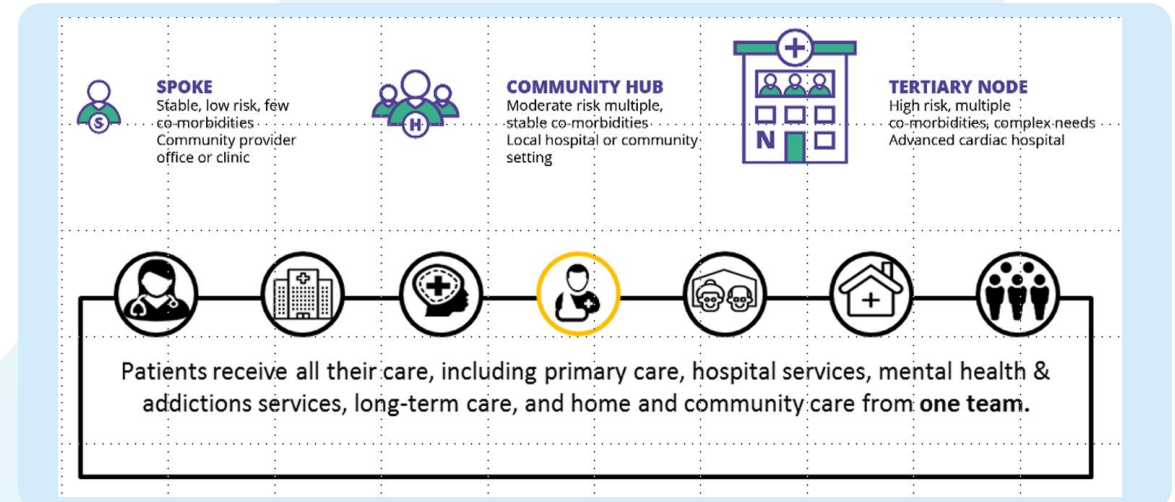
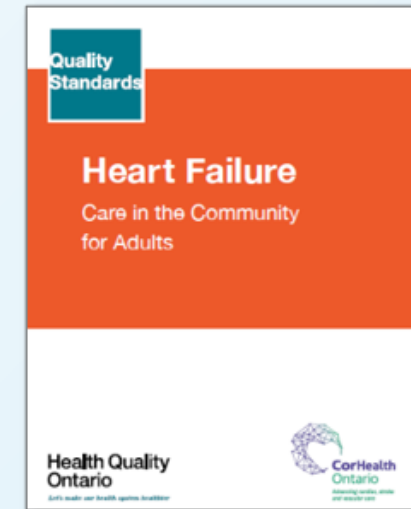
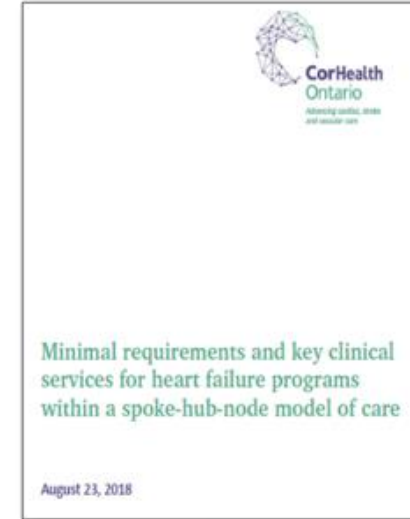
- Improve outcomes and experience of care for patients living with heart failure through integrated care, a greater focus on community management

## HF Integrated Clinical Pathways- Demonstration teams

- Initial Phase: 7 OHTs and 9 CHF-QBP hospitals

## HF Integrated Clinical Pathways- I 12 OHT

- Started planning 2023 with Launch in October 2024
- 9 additional OHT's – FLA OHT is one of those teams



# Enhancing Integrated Heart Failure Care Through the Spoke-Hub-Node Framework

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Speakers:

**Dr. Aws Almufleh | Kingston Health Sciences Heart Function Clinic  
Physician Lead and FLA OHT ICP Project Clinical Lead**

# Disclosures



**Speakers  
Bureau/Honoraria:**

Novartis, Pfizer, Bayer, Servier, Boehringer  
Ingelheim, Novo Nordisk, Alnylam,  
AstraZeneca

**Grants/Research  
Support:**

Novartis, Pfizer

**Consulting Fees:**

Pfizer

# Support



**Ministry/Ontario Health funding for integrated care pathways**

**Institute of Clinical Evaluative Sciences**



**SEAMO innovation fund**



**SEAMO quality improvement fund**



- Views expressed in this presentation are my views, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Ministry of Health, Ontario Health, IC/ES or FLA-Ontario Health Team
- This work is actively evolving, and the projects presented are at various stages of implementation

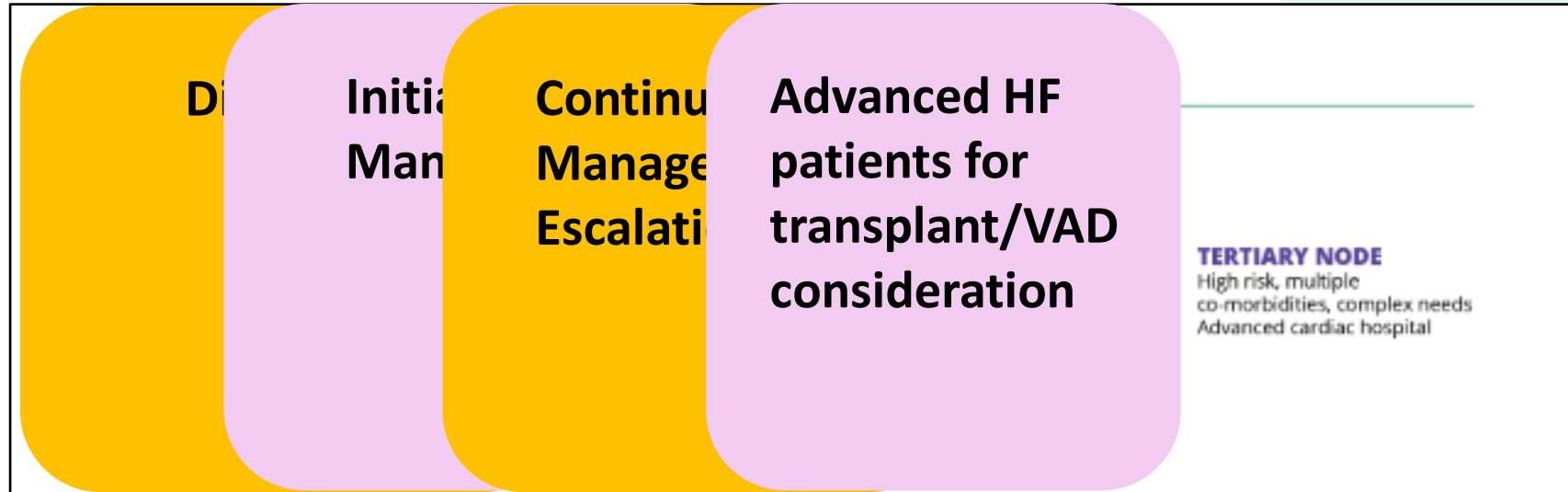
# Outline

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- ✓ **Integrated Heart Failure Care Framework throughout the patient care continuum**
- ✓ **Pathway of Primary-care led Heart Failure Diagnosis in the Community**
- ✓ **Streamlining access to timely diagnostics and interpretation**
- ✓ **Heart failure diagnosed; Now what? “Outsourcing” counseling, education, prevention**
- ✓ **Hospital Care; Readmissions burden and care gaps**
- ✓ **Boosting efficiency; doing more with less**
- ✓ **Unattached patients**

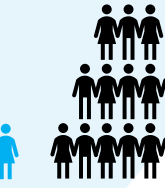
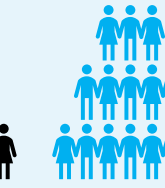
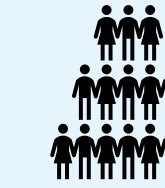
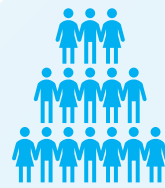
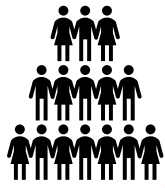
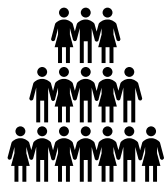
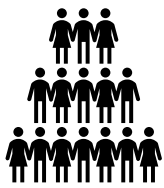
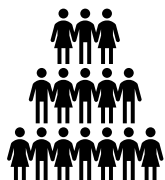
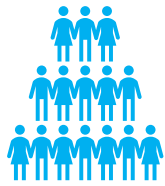
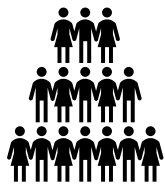
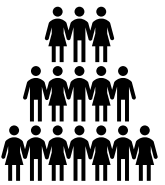
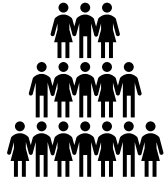
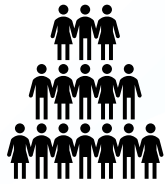


Spoke	Hub	Node
Primary Care	LACGH HF Clinic	KHSC
Walk-in/Virtual clinic for unattached patients	Community Cardiology Clinics	



A Local Network and Team – Supporting the Patient & Caregiver  
Seamless Transitions When Care Needs Escalate or Deescalate

- \* Specialized testing (imaging, genetics, etc)
- \* Transplant assessment
- \* LVAD evaluation
- \* CRT/ICD
- \* MitraClip
- \* Ablation



# HF Diagnosis in the community vs acute care settings



HF diagnoses April 1, 2010 and March 31, 2022

- 597,025 patients with new HF identified

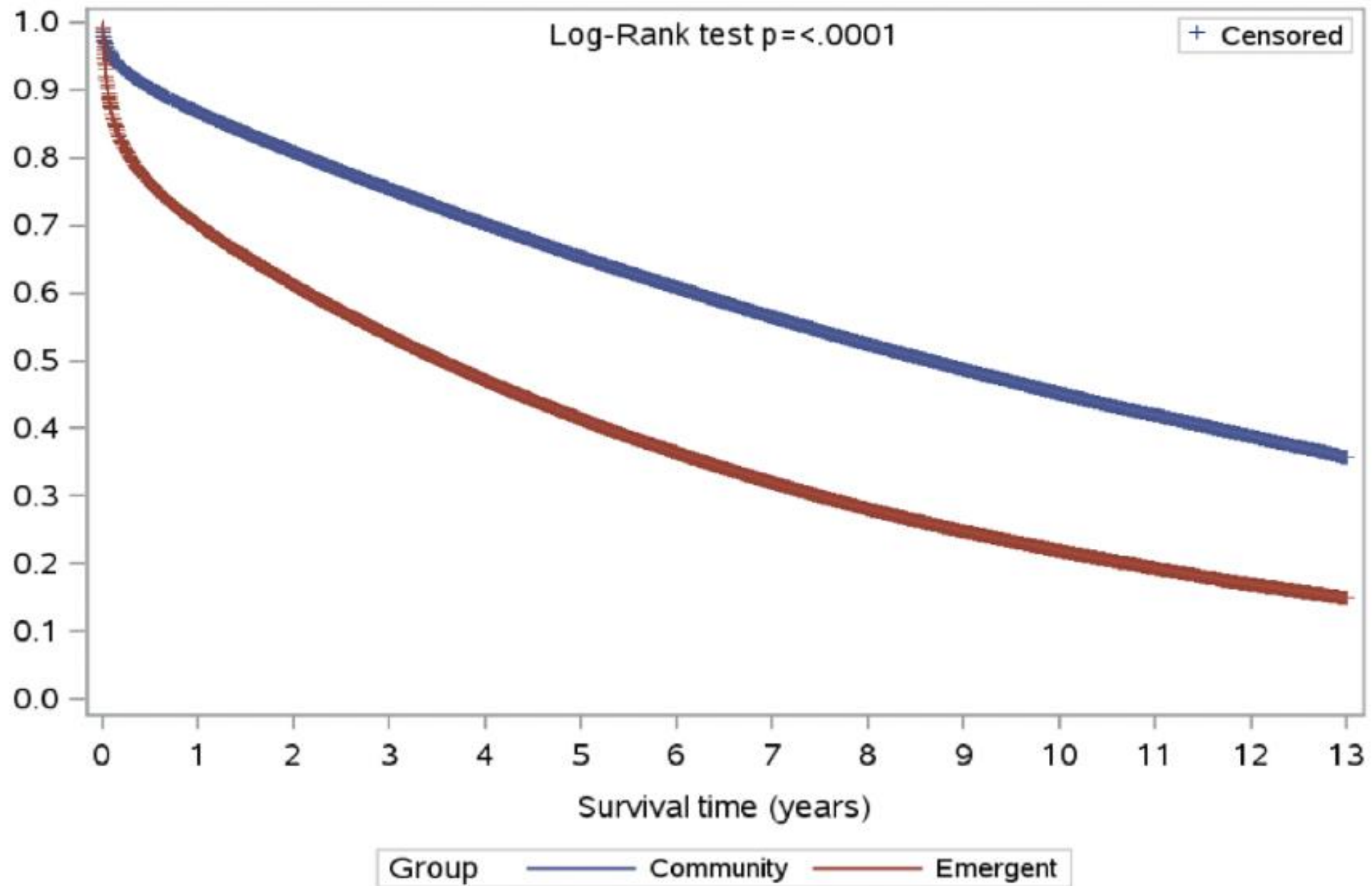
→ 36.9% diagnosed in acute care; Unchanged over time (2010 36.7% vs 2022 36.6%)

• Female patients, without PCP, lower income, and with multiple comorbidities → acute care

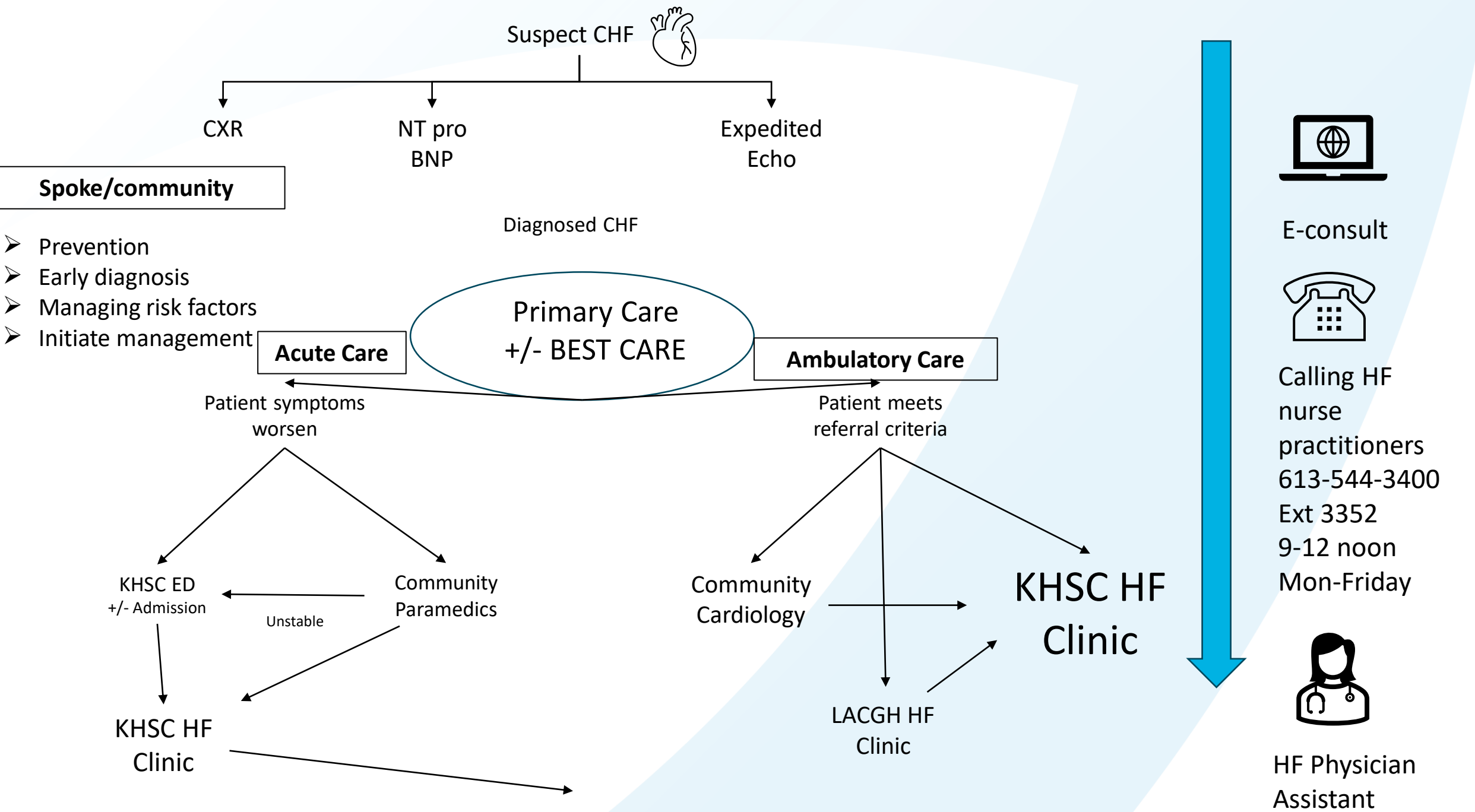
• No change based on physician years of experience.

- → increased risk of all-cause mortality (1.82), hospital admissions for HF (2.8), and emergency department visits for HF (2.68); adj age, sex, and baseline comorbidities





**Figure 1:** All-cause mortality by heart failure diagnosis setting



# Barriers to HF diagnosis/initial management

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**Ontario  
Health**

# Challenges of HF Diagnosis in the community



- History and physical examination findings can be discrepant
- Timely access to diagnostic tools (Echo, Holter, **BNP**, stress testing)
- Nuanced interpretation for some tests
- Unease about diagnosing/explaining HFpEF
- Lack of consistent/reliable specialist support in navigating the diagnosis process

# Challenges of HF Management in the community



- Therapeutic options for HFrEF are rapidly evolving
- Patients/PCPs ambiguity about who could/should manage HF
- Insufficient time to conduct a full visit (HF care is more than just pills).
- Lack of specialists' support to navigate medical therapy initiation
- Difficulty in answering patients' questions** (prognosis, safety of certain activities, lifestyle modifications, driving restrictions)

# Challenges of HF Follow-up in the community

- Poor financial incentives for frequent visits
- Unease about depriving the patient of specialized assessment and management
- Learned reliance on the specialist based on previous encounters
- Long specialists wait-time justifies early referral
- Lack of multidisciplinary support at individual family MD offices.





# OUTPATIENT HEART FAILURE DIAGNOSIS ALGORITHM

Heart Failure Suspected

## Clinical Assessment

### History

- Duration of symptoms.
- SOB/orthopnea/PND
- Fatigue/weakness
- Dependent edema
- Weight gain
- Abdominal distension
- Exercise intolerance
- Cough
- Cool extremities
- Chest pain
- Palpitations
- Syncope

### Physical

- Mental status
- Heart rate
- Heart rhythm
- Blood pressure
- SpO2
- Weight
- Heart sounds
- Murmurs?
- Elevated JVP?
- Crackles?
- Pitting edema?
- Abdominal distension?

## Red Flags

- SOB at rest
- Hypoxia
- Signs of PE or MI
- Prolonged chest pain.
- Fainting
- Confusion

## Emergency Treatment

Advise patient to attend the nearest Emergency Department for assessment. Please follow-up within one week of discharge to reassess suitability for pathway.

**Please note:**  
Diagnosis and management can occur simultaneously in patients who are symptomatic with a high suspicion for HF. See management algorithm (click [here](#) to go to management algorithm).

Initial Clinic Visit

**For Primary Care Providers**  
 You can be eligible for **HF incentive fee code (Q050A - \$125)** if the following requirements are met:  
 1)  $\geq 2$  visits/year  
 2) Use guideline-based management (e.g. this pathway)  
 3) Document clinical progress using flowsheet ([link](#))

**Appropriate for Pathway**  
 Patient does not have any red flags. Please order the following testing concurrently.

**Expedite your**  
 1) Signs  
 2) No Ech  
 3) Positive



**Echocardiogram/ECG**  
 Please click [here](#) for a list of local providers where patients can be referred for standard Transthoracic Echocardiograms and ECGs. **Ask for LV systolic/diastolic function + valvular disease assessment!**

**Chest X-Ray**  
 Please click [here](#) for a list of local providers where patients can be referred for chest X-rays.

**NT-pro BNP**  
 All labs will test **NT-proBNP** (not BNP) at no cost to the patient. NTproBNP  $\geq 125$  is suggestive of HF.

**Other Labs**

- CBC ( $\pm$  ferritin)
- Electrolytes, creatinine
- TSH (free T4 if abnormal)
- Hemoglobin A1C, glucose.
- Lipid panel

# Echoes for HF diagnosis (Provided within 2 weeks)

If your patient meets the following criteria

1. Has  $\geq 1$  HF symptoms AND  $\geq 1$  objective finding of HF (edema, crackles, elevated JVP, weight gain, etc)
2. No prior echo within 1 year.
3. Positive (**or pending**) NT proBNP ( $\geq 125$  ng/L)



April 1<sup>st</sup>,  
2024

**For Primary Care Providers**

You can be eligible for HF incentive fee code (Q050A - \$125) if the following requirements are met:

- 1)  $\geq 2$  visits/year
- 2) Use guideline-based management (e.g. this pathway)
- 3) Document clinical progress using flowsheet ([link](#))

**Appropriate for Pathway**

Patient does not have any red flags. Please order the following testing concurrently.

**Expedite your Echo using this Req IF**

- 1) Signs AND Symptoms of HF
- 2) No Echo done within 1 year
- 3) Positive BNP or NTproBNP

**Echocardiogram/ECG**

Please click [here](#) for a list of local providers where patients can be referred for standard Transthoracic Echocardiograms and ECGs. **Ask for LV systolic/diastolic function + valvular disease assessment!**

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Religious Hospitallers  
of Saint Joseph  
of the Hotel Dieu of Kingston  
HOTEL DIEU HOSPITAL

166 Brock Street  
Cardiology, Floor Brock 2  
Telephone: 613-544-3400 Ext. 2340  
Fax: 613-546-7138

**Type of test:**

- Echocardiogram
- Treadmill Exercise Test
- Holter Monitor     48-hour     24-hour
- Ambulatory Blood Pressure (*non-insured*)
- Electrocardiogram
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_



KINGSTON  
GENERAL  
HOSPITAL

76 Stuart Street  
Cardiology, Floor FAPC 3  
Telephone: 613-549-6666 Ext. 3980  
Fax: 613-548-1387

**Type of test:**

- Dobutamine Stress Echocardiogram
- Treadmill Stress Echocardiogram
- Transesophageal Echocardiogram
- Pediatric Echocardiogram
- Fetal Echocardiogram
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Clinical information/reason(s) for test:**

Please write **HF pathway** in the requisition

Need Help? 1) Send a HF E-consult ([link](#)); answered in <24 hours (will indicate if the patient should be seen in-person).  
2) If you have **urgent questions**: Call 613-544-3400 extension #2569 or #3352 Mon-Friday 9 am-noon time to speak directly to HF NP.

# 6 months later





Show the Inspector







# Disposition

## For Primary Care Providers

You can be eligible for **HF incentive fee code (Q050A - \$125)** if the following requirements are met:

- 1)  $\geq 2$  visits/year
- 2) Use guideline-based management (e.g. this pathway)
- 3) Document clinical progress using flowsheet ([link](#))



systolic/diastolic function +  
valvular disease assessment.

HF.

- Lipid panel
- ALT, ALP, bilirubin, INR

# FACT SHEET

**Title: HEART FAILURE MANAGEMENT INCENTIVE**

**Date: April 2008**

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**Eligible Patient Enrolment Models (PEMs):**

- Family Health Networks (FHNs)
  - Family Health Groups (FHGs)
  - Comprehensive Care Models (CCMs)
  - Group Health Centre (GHC)
  - St. Joseph's Health Centre (SJHC)
  - Family Health Organizations (FHOs)
  - Rural and Northern Physician Group Agreement (RNPGA)
  - South Eastern Ontario Academic Medical Organization (SEAMO)
  - Community Health Center (CHC)
  - Community Sponsored Agreement Blended Salary Model (BSMs)
- 

Appendix E, Section 3.2 of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) includes provisions for a New Chronic Disease Management Incentive effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. Information and guidelines on how to submit for the Heart Failure Management Incentive are provided below.








## HEART FAILURE PATIENT CARE FLOW SHEET

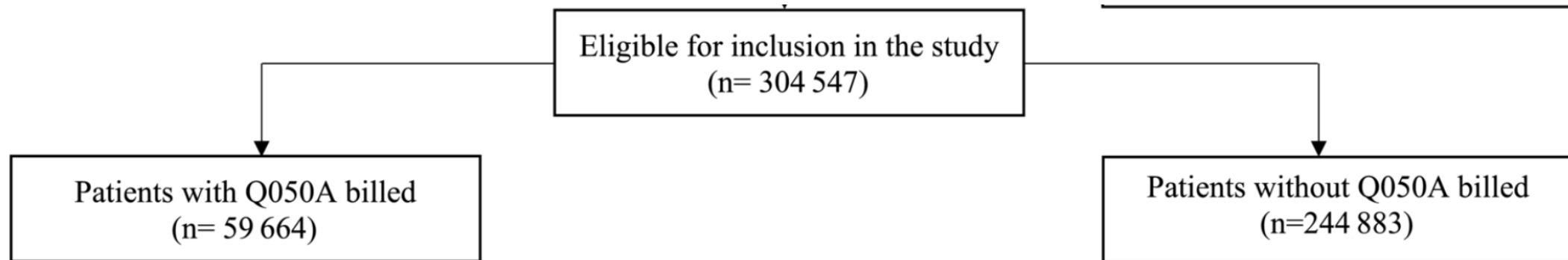
This Flow Sheet is based on the Heart failure Guideline  
Web site: <http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/cdm/index.html>

NAME OF PATIENT	BIRTHDATE
COMORBID CONDITIONS	PHN
	DATE OF DIAGNOSIS
CRITERIA FOR DIAGNOSIS (EJECTION FRACTION BY ECHOCARDIOGRAM RECOMMENDED – SEE GUIDELINE)	

		DATE (YY/MM/DD)					
PHYSIOLOGY	REVIEW EACH VISIT	GOALS	INITIAL REVIEW (BASELINE)				
	Blood Pressure						
	Weight (diary)						
	NYHA class						
	Sodium intake						
	Fluid intake						
Activity Level							
MEDICATIONS/EFFECTS +/-	Target dose	ACE-inhibitor					
	B-blocker						
	ARB						
	Other						
LABORATORY	On-going	Na					
	K						
	Creatinine						
EDUCATION REMINDERS	<input type="checkbox"/> Explain what heart failure is and what causes it <input type="checkbox"/> Set goals with patient <input type="checkbox"/> How to recognize and deal with symptoms <input type="checkbox"/> Self-weighing <input type="checkbox"/> Rationale of treatments and importance of adherence <input type="checkbox"/> Flu Vaccination (annual) Date:						
	<input type="checkbox"/> Side effects and adverse effects <input type="checkbox"/> Prognosis <input type="checkbox"/> Pneumococcal Vaccination <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid excessive alcohol <input type="checkbox"/> Stop smoking Refer to patient resource sheet and Guideline						
CLINICAL EVALUATION	VISIT 1						
	VISIT 2						
	VISIT 3						
	VISIT 4						
	NOTES						

# Association of a Heart Failure Management Incentive in Primary Care With Clinical Outcomes: A Retrospective Cohort Study

Harsukh Benipal, MSc, BHSc  ; Catherine Demers, MD, MSc  ; Joshua O. Cerasuolo, MSc  ; Richard Perez, PhD, MSc; John J. You, MD, MSc; Faizan Amin, MD, MSc  ; Karim Keshavjee, MD, MBA, CCFP, CPHIMS; Douglas S. Lee, MD, PhD 



**<15% are using Q050 code for HF**

# OUTPATIENT HEART FAILURE MANAGEMENT ALGORITHM

Patient FAQs ([link](#))

Heart Failure Diagnosed/Clinically suspected

Assess Suitability to Remain on Pathway

## Alarm Features

- Worsening dyspnea (*despite diuretic escalation*).
- Edema + Weight gain (2kg in 2 days or 2.5kg in 1 week).
- Symptomatic low BP (SBP less than 90 mmHg).
- Persistent postural lightheadedness (*despite decreasing diuretics*).
- Unexplained tachycardia/increased HR above baseline

Patient requires in-person visit + blood work within 1-2 week.

If patient is elderly or frail, consider home and community care

[Click here](#) for community resources

## Assess Patient

- Confirm diagnosis (see Dx pathway)
- Presence of red flags?
- Degree of shortness of breath ([NYHA Class](#))
- Volume overload symptoms (PND, orthopnea, abdominal and/or leg swelling)
- Hypovolemia symptoms (orthostatic dizziness, excess thirst, concentrated urine, low BP, decreased weight)
- Change in symptoms (better/worse?)
- BP and HR (sitting and standing), weight, O2 sat
- JVP, crackles, ascites, peripheral edema.
- Serum creatinine/eGFR, sodium, potassium.
- NT-proBNP
- Echocardiogram

## Red Flags

- SOB at rest
- Hypoxic
- Signs of PE or MI
- Prolonged chest pain
- Fainting
- Confusion

Call EMS

**Diuretics to Improve Congestion** (*only if patient is volume overloaded*)

- I.e. Furosemide (Lasix) - Suggested starting dose for Lasix-naïve patients is **20mg daily for eGFR >60**, **40mg daily for eGFR 30-60** and **60mg daily for eGFR <30**.
- Titrate to minimum effective dose to maintain euvolemia.

Initiate standard therapies as soon as possible. Titrate every 2-4 weeks to target or maximally tolerated dose of each medication by 3 - 6 months from initial assessment.

[Link for Medication Guide](#)

Consider referral to cardiac rehab for both preserved and reduced ejection fraction ([link](#))

### Heart Failure with Reduced Ejection Fraction (LVEF $\leq$ 40% and Symptoms)

#### Step #1 - Start Entresto (or ACEi/ARB) [Details](#)

~4 Weeks  
Start Entresto 24/26mg BID (if eGFR  $\geq$ 30) and titrate up every 2 weeks if tolerated (monitor BP, Cr/K+) to target 97/103mg BID.

#### Step #2 - Start Beta Blocker [Details](#)

~6 Weeks  
Start Bisoprolol 2.5mg daily and titrate up every two weeks if tolerated (monitor BP and HR) to target 10mg daily.

#### Step #3 - Start MRA (ie Spironolactone) [Details](#)

~4 weeks  
Start Spironolactone 12.5mg daily (if eGFR  $\geq$ 30) and titrate up in 4 weeks if tolerated (monitor BP, Cr and K+) to target 25mg daily.

#### Step #4 - Start SGLT2 Inhibitor [Details](#)

~2 weeks  
Start Empagliflozin 10mg daily or Dapagliflozin 10mg daily (if eGFR  $\geq$ 20).

### Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction (LVEF > 40% and Symptoms)

#### Step #1 - Start SGLT2 Inhibitor [Details](#)

Start Empagliflozin 10mg daily or Dapagliflozin 10mg daily (if eGFR  $\geq$ 20).

#### Step #2 - Comorbidity management [Details](#)

(i.e. OSA, DM, HTN, obesity, anemia.)  
For obesity, consider GLP-1 RA e.g. semaglutide  
Consider the following medications as first-line to control BP:  
▶ MRA (i.e. Spironolactone)  
▶ ARB (i.e. Candesartan)  
▶ Beta-Blocker (i.e. Bisoprolol) if EF 40-49%.

#### Step #3 - Diuretics for Symptoms

Titrate diuretics to lowest dose effective to maintain euvolemia.

Note: It is better to be on small doses of each class of these medications than a full dose of one class only.

**Practical tip.** In patients suitable for switching to an ARNI, an ACEI can be discontinued at the time of hospital admission enabling ARNI prescription at 36 hours after admission. A 36 hour wash-out period is not necessary for those receiving ARB therapy at the time of hospitalization.

**Practical tip.** In hospitalized and ambulatory patients with HF, without previous exposure to either an ACEI or ARB, an ARNI should be considered as first-line therapy when BP and renal function/potassium levels permit. Because a washout period is needed with ACEIs, initial therapy with this class in a hospitalized patient with HFrEF will delay the initiation of ARNI treatment.

**Practical tip.** ARNI might reduce diuretic requirements and diuretic dosing should be carefully evaluated when starting ARNI therapy.

### Medication

1. Sacubitril / Valsartan

- \*\* Start 49mg / 51mg PO BID
- Concomitant use of ACEI is not necessary when switching to ARNI
- Note recommended in patients with HF
- For renal dosing consult pharmacist

[More Information](#)

### Target Dose

49mg / 51mg PO BID

50mg/day of Valsartan. Washout period is 36 hours.

Code: **497**

Check for starting.



Initiate standard therapies as soon as possible. Titrate every 2-4 weeks to target or maximally tolerated dose of each medication by 3 - 6 months from initial assessment.

Consider referral to **cardiac rehab** for both preserved and reduced ejection fraction ([link](#))

### Heart Failure with Reduced Ejection Fraction (LVEF $\leq$ 40% and Symptoms)

#### Step #1 - Start Entresto (or ACEi/ARB) [Details](#)

-4 Weeks  
Start Entresto 24/26mg BID (if eGFR  $\geq$ 30) and titrate up every 2 weeks if tolerated (monitor BP, Cr/K+) to target 97/103mg BID.

#### Step #2 - Start Beta Blocker [Details](#)

-6 Weeks  
Start Bisoprolol 2.5mg daily and titrate up every two weeks if tolerated (monitor BP and HR) to target 10mg daily.

#### Step #3 - Start MRA (ie Spironolactone) [Details](#)

-4 weeks  
Start Spironolactone 12.5mg daily (if eGFR  $\geq$ 30) and titrate up in 4 weeks if tolerated (monitor BP, Cr and K+) to target 25mg daily.

#### Step #4 - Start SGLT2 Inhibitor [Details](#)

-2 weeks  
Start Empagliflozin 10mg daily or Dapagliflozin 10mg daily (if eGFR  $\geq$ 20).

### Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction (LVEF $>$ 40% and Symptoms)

#### Step #1 - Start SGLT2 Inhibitor [Details](#)

Start Empagliflozin 10mg daily or Dapagliflozin 10mg daily (if eGFR  $\geq$ 20).

#### Step #2 - Lifestyle and comorbidity management

(i.e. OSA, DM, HTN, obesity, anemia.)

Consider the following medications as first-line to control BP:

- ▶ MRA (i.e. Spironolactone)
- ▶ ARB (i.e. Candesartan)
- ▶ Beta-Blocker (i.e. Bisoprolol) if EF 40-49%.

#### Step #3 - Diuretics for Symptoms

Titrate diuretics to lowest dose effective to maintain euvolemia.

# OUTPATIENT HEART FAILURE MANAGEMENT ALGORITHM

Kingston Health  
Sciences Centre  
Centre des sciences de  
la santé de Kingston



Patient FAQs ([link](#))

Heart Failure Diagnosed/Clinician

Assess Suitability to Remain on Pathway

## Alarm Features

- Worsening dyspnea (*despite diuretic escalation*).
- Edema + Weight gain (2kg in 2 days or 2.5kg in 1 week).
- Symptomatic low BP (SBP less than 90 mmHg).
- Persistent postural lightheadedness (*despite decreasing diuretics*).
- Unexplained tachycardia/increased HR above baseline

Patient requires in-person visit + blood work within 1-2 week.

If patient is elderly or frail, consider home and community care

[Click here](#) for community resources

## Assessment

- Confirm diagnosis (e.g., chest X-ray, echocardiogram)
- Presence of red flags
- Degree of shortness of breath
- Volume overload symptoms (e.g., abdominal and/or leg swelling)
- Hypovolemia symptoms (e.g., orthostatic hypotension, excessive thirst, concentrated urine, decreased weight)
- Change in symptoms
- BP and HR (sitting and standing)
- JVP, crackles, ascites
- Serum creatinine/eGFR
- NT-proBNP
- Echocardiogram



## Red Flags

- SOB at rest
- Hypoxic
- Signs of PE or MI
- Prolonged chest pain
- Fainting
- Confusion



- **What is the prognosis of my condition? What are the chances that I would survive heart failure?**

Heart failure is *not a death sentence!* With medications and lifestyle modification, many patients can live a long life. The prognosis (chance of survival) varies substantially based on many factors including the degree of heart weakness, the burden of symptoms, kidney function, anemia, ability to take heart medications etc. Even with the knowledge of all of the above factors, accurate prediction of survival is difficult/at times impossible. Rather than becoming preoccupied with predictions, many patients find solace in the fact that there are many things **THEY can** do to improve their condition and lead fulfilling lives. See the next question.

- **How much activity is too much, will I harm my heart if I go up and down the stairs?**

Having heart failure does not mean restricting activity. In fact, exercise is essential to help strengthen the heart. It helps increase energy levels and makes the whole body healthier. Studies show that moderate exercise helps decrease the risk for needing hospitalization for worsening heart failure.

### Benefits of exercise

- **Can I have sex?**

It is normal for patients with heart failure (and their partners) to feel anxious about resuming sexual activity. Sexual activity is not dangerous to your heart. In general, if you can walk up two flights of stairs or walk briskly, you can resume your regular sexual activity. The following tips may be helpful:

- Engage in sex when you are well-rested and relaxed.
- Avoid sex after eating a big meal or drinking alcohol.
- Have sex in a comfortable room that is not too hot or too cold.
- Choose less stressful positions and techniques.

- **Can I drink a glass of wine?**

For most patients with stable heart failure, drinking 1 glass of wine every once in a while, (few days a month for example) should be okay as long as you keep track of the total fluids that you drink trying not to exceed 2 liters per day. In some cases, heavy alcohol use is the cause of heart failure therefore your health care team may advise you to abstain from alcohol completely. Also, if you are having worsening symptoms of heart failure (shortness of breath with minimal exertion and increasing leg swelling), then it is best to avoid alcohol until your symptoms improve.

- **My healthcare provider started me on blood pressure medication, but my blood pressure is normal. Why was this done?**

- **I feel fine, why does my healthcare provider keep adding more medications for my heart?**

Heart failure patients will need multiple medications. Some medications are intended to relieve shortness of breath/swelling and some are used to strengthen the heart. Even after heart function recovery, most patients will need these medications for the rest of their lives to keep their heart strong. Do not be discouraged, however! After adequate treatment of heart failure, most patients feel much better, have more energy, become less short of breath and are able to enjoy their lives. Taking medications become part of their routine and does not interfere with their activities. Also, once the body adapts to taking these medications, the side effects which may have been felt in the beginning often disappear. Some heart failure patients work in heavy manual jobs like construction, farming, and athletics and are not limited by their disease (as long as it is well controlled with medications and receive clearance from their healthcare providers).

# Heart Failure Medications: A Patient & Caregiver Guide

Understanding Guideline-Directed Medical Therapy for  
Heart Failure with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF)





## ARNI, ACEi, ARBs



### How they work:

They reduce salt and water retention and open up blood vessels. This makes it easier for your heart to pump blood to your body.

### Commonly used drugs:<sup>3</sup>

#### ARNI

Sacubitril-valsartan (Entresto™)

#### ACEi ("prils")

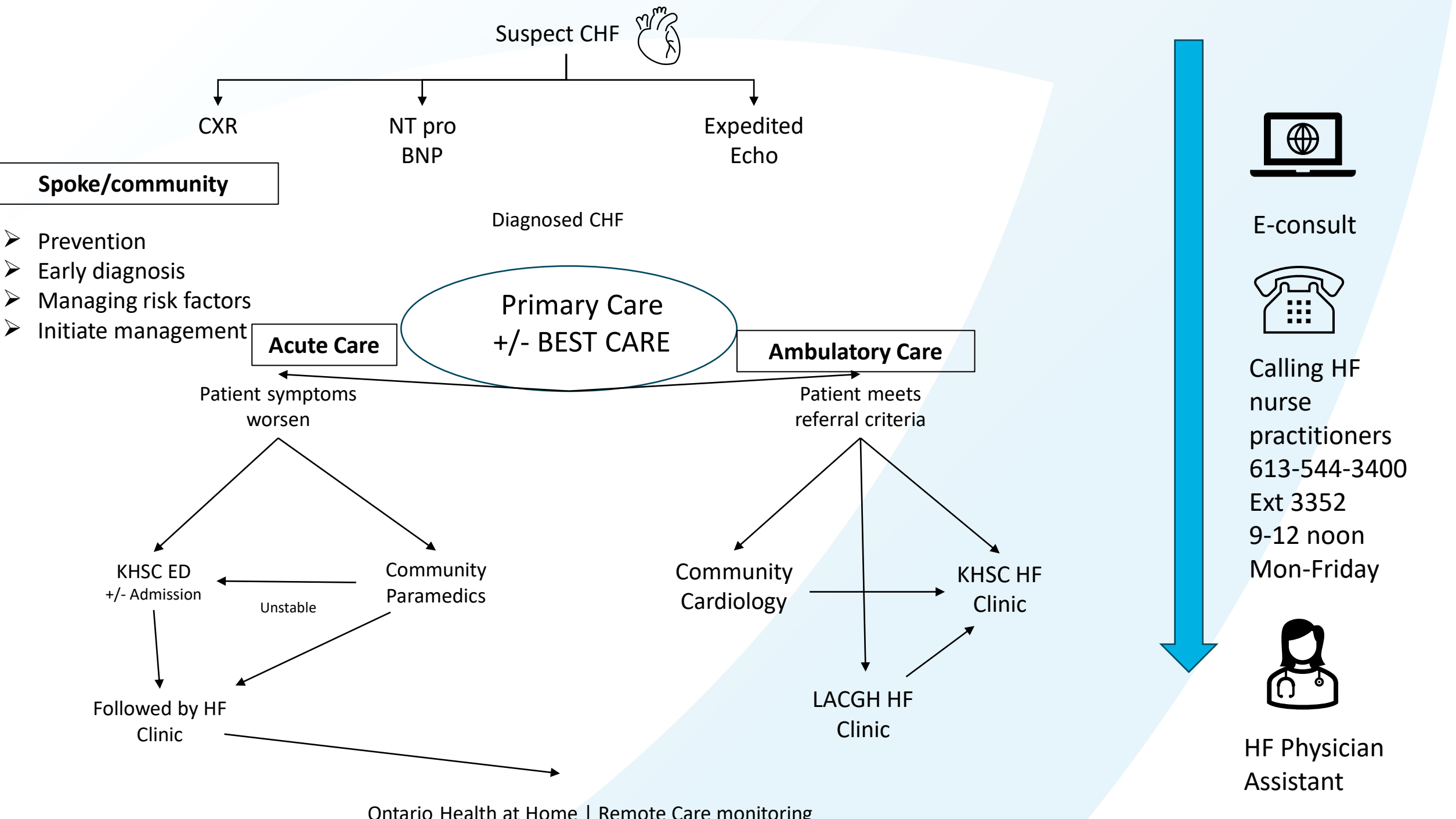
Perindopril, ramipril

#### ARB ("sartans")

Candesartan, valsartan

### What to watch out for:

- Symptoms of low blood pressure.<sup>4</sup>
- ACEi and ARNI may cause a dry cough.
- Routine bloodwork to check kidney function and potassium (risk of high potassium).



## Indications for Referral and Appropriate Referral Destination

### Community Cardiology

- **HF with new or worsening chest pain concerning for ischemia.**
- HF with persistent NYHA class III/IV (advanced symptoms) despite optimal medical therapy (consider e-consult for second line treatments).
- HF with persistent HR <50 or systolic BP <90 with symptoms.
- Persistent congestive symptoms despite high diuretic dose ( $\geq$ Lasix 160 mg daily).

[Click here](#) for Community Cardiology referral instructions.

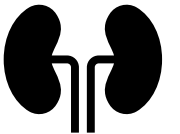
### Heart Function Clinic

- **$\geq 2$  hospitalizations for decompensated heart failure in the past year.**
- Moderate-to-severe or severe valvular heart disease for discussion of valve intervention/optimized medical management.
- Patients with LVEF less than 35% after  $\geq 3$  monthths of optimal medical therapy to consider implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) and/or cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT).
- HF with worsening kidney disease (baseline eGFR<30 or increase in creatinine by  $\geq 30\%$  with diuresis or medical therapy).

[Click here](#) for Heart Function Clinic referral instructions.



- Ischemia
- valvular disease
- arrhythmia



# Care Management Pathways

Clinical pathways provide information on diagnosis, management and referral of patients for specific conditions. Below is a reference list of pathways that have been launched at KHSC.

## Quick Reference List

Cardiology - [Heart Failure](#)

Endocrinology - [Thyroid](#)

General Internal Medicine – [Iron Deficiency Anemia](#)

Gastroenterology – [Chronic Diarrhea](#)

Gastroenterology – [Dyspepsia](#)

### Care Management Pathways

Cardiology

Endocrinology

Gastroenterology

General Internal Medicine

General Surgery

Hematology

Neurology

Pediatrics

Palliative Medicine

# Support and Questions

- Need Help? 1) Send a HF E-consult ([link](#)); answered in <24 hours (will indicate if the patient should be seen in-person).
- 2) If you have **urgent questions**: Call 613-544-3400 extension #2569 or #3352 Mon-Friday 9 am-noon time to speak directly to HF NP.

# Primary Care Engagement

- Mass emails
- Fax to all practices
- Primary care council announcement
- Lunch time sessions







QR code below to access the session survey:







# Support and Questions

- Need Help? 1) Send a HF E-consult ([link](#)); answered in <24 hours (will indicate if the patient should be seen in-person).
- 2) If you have **urgent questions**: Call 613-544-3400 extension #2569 or #3352 Mon-Friday 9 am-noon time to speak directly to HF NP.

My Workspace

Patient Care

ZALESKI, Mabele

DOB: 12 Aug 1940 (79y) Male HCN: 3121530152

+ Add To...

Contact &amp; Address: 29412 Earle Shores St, Freshwater, ON A7E 2N8

**Timeline**

Time Interval: Today 7D 30D 3M 6M 1Y Custom Displaying 18 Nov 2017 to 18 Nov 2011 View Refreshed: 12:07

Timeline showing dates from 18 Nov 2017 to 18 Nov 2011.

Show  Inpatient  Ambulatory  ED

**Medications** Enter filter text...

**Dispensed Medications**

**Warning: Limited to drug information and pharmacy services available in DHDR.**

Dispensed Date	Generic Name	Brand Name	Strength
16 May 2014	INSULIN HUMAN BIOSYNTH...	Humulin 30/70	100U
16 May 2014	BISOPROLOL FUMARATE	Novo-Bisoprolol	5mg
16 May 2014	MedsCheck LTC Annual	Meds Check	
16 May 2014	CIPROFLOXACIN	Apo-Ciproflo	500r
16 May 2014	ACETYSALICYLIC ACID	Novasen	325r
16 May 2014	PERINDOPRIL ERBUMINE	Coversyl	2mg
16 May 2014	ROSUVASTATIN CALCIUM	Ran-Rosuvastatin	20m

30 results returned from system

**Documents/Notes** Enter filter text...

View

Document Date/Time	Document	Description
15 May 2014 00:00		Ambulatory Consult
10 Jan 2014 15:33		Discharge Summary
13 Dec 2013 15:33		OR Procedure/Note
05 Oct 2013 00:00		ED RECORD
05 Oct 2013 00:00		WOUND CARE

5 results returned from system

**Diagnostic Imaging** Enter filter text...

View **Warning: Limited to diagnostic imaging results available in DI Common Service.**

Procedure Date/Time	Report	Image	Procedure Description
02 Jun 2017 10:20			Abdominal X-ray Series; Abdominal X-ray S

**Lab and Pathology Results** Enter filter text...

Click the button on the right to view blocked PHI [Override Consent](#)

Group By: None **Warning: Some or all records are blocked due to a patient consent directive**

Collection Date/Time	Last Updated	Ordered As	Test
15 May 2014 00:10	09 Sep 2014 16:13	Glucose Fasting	Glucose Fasting
15 May 2014 00:10	09 Sep 2014 16:13	Hemoglobin A1 C	Hemoglobin A1C/To
15 May 2014 00:10	09 Sep 2014 16:13	Electrolytes	Sodium
15 May 2014 00:10	09 Sep 2014 16:13	Electrolytes	Potassium
15 May 2014 00:10	09 Sep 2014 16:13	Electrolytes	Chloride
15 May 2014 00:10	09 Sep 2014 16:13	Lipid Panel	Cholesterol
15 May 2014 00:10	09 Sep 2014 16:13	Lipid Panel	Cholesterol/Cholest

550 results returned from system

**Other Results** Enter filter text...

# Example

Interim, I was going to start him on Lasix 20-40 mg as tolerated with repeat labs next week as I suspect the hyponatremia is dilutional due to fluid overload. BP is 137/76 HR 87.

Essentially, I am trying to follow the KHSC heart failure pathway but I certainly do not want to initiate 1+ medications at the same time.

I was hoping if you would be able to guide outpatient while he awaits the appointment with cardiology in person. Given he tolerates Lasix 40 mg well within upcoming 2 weeks, would be start ACE/ARB as next step?

Thank you for your assistance,

Suspect CHF



CXR

NT pro BNP

Expedited Echo

Spoke/community

Diagnosed CHF

Primary Care +/- BEST CARE

Acute Care

Ambulatory Care

Patient symptoms worsen

Patient meets referral criteria

KHSC ED +/- Admission

Community Paramedics

Community Cardiology

KHSC HF Clinic

Unstable

LACGH HF Clinic

Followed by HF Clinic



E-consult



Calling HF nurse practitioners 613-544-3400 Ext 3352 9-12 noon Mon-Friday



HF Physician Assistant

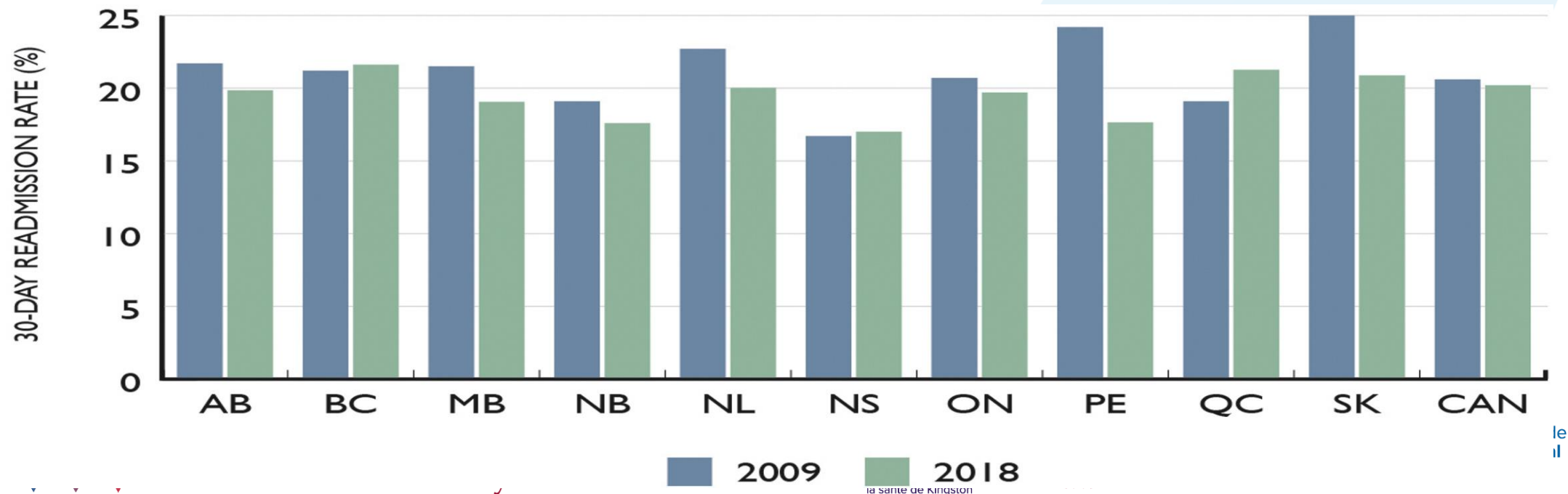
- Prevention
- Early diagnosis
- Managing risk factors
- Initiate management

# Heart failure hospitalization

Most common reason for hospitalization in adults > 65 years of age

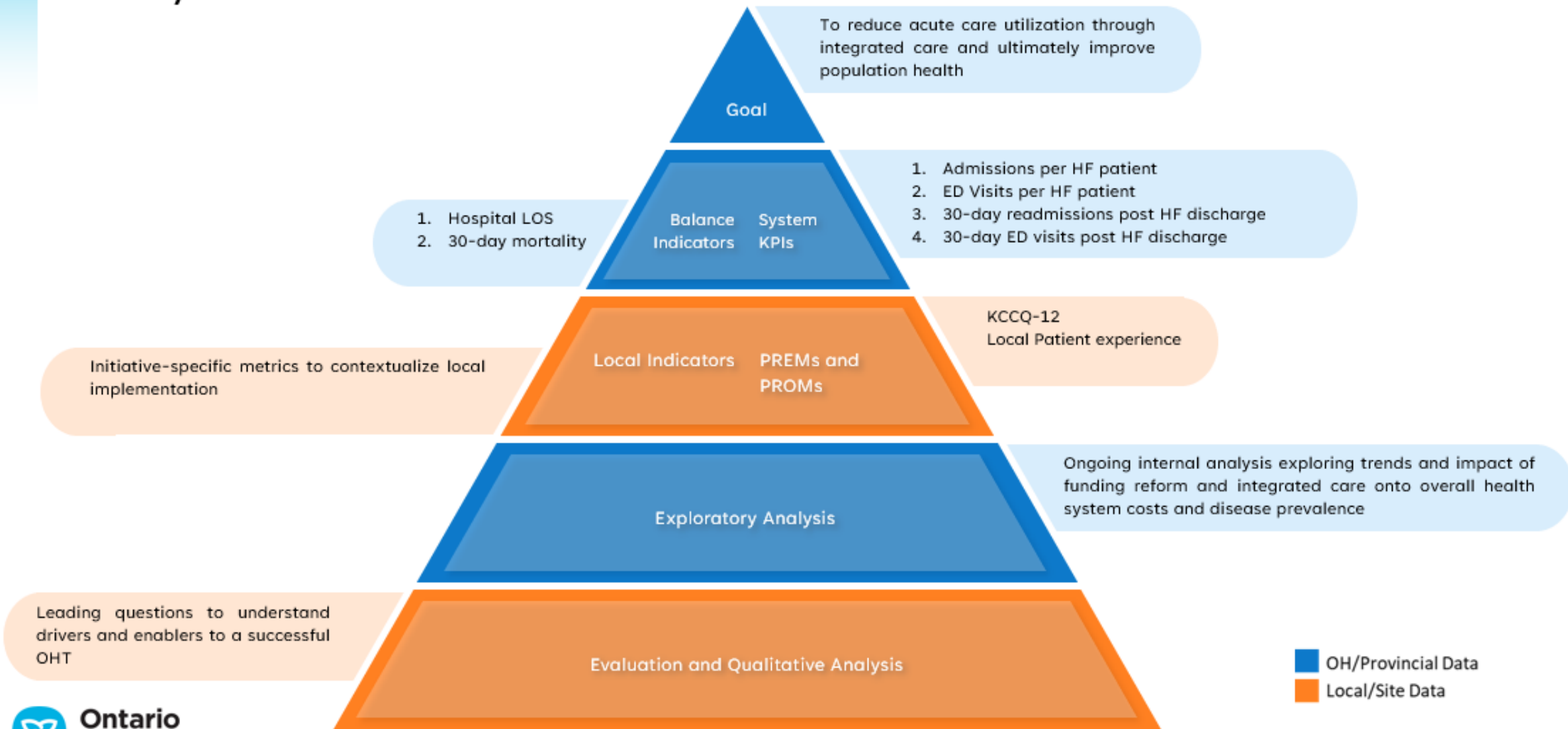
Cost is high (70% of spending); with poor outcomes (22% risk of death in 1 year)

Despite new therapies, minimal improvements are appreciated in outcomes

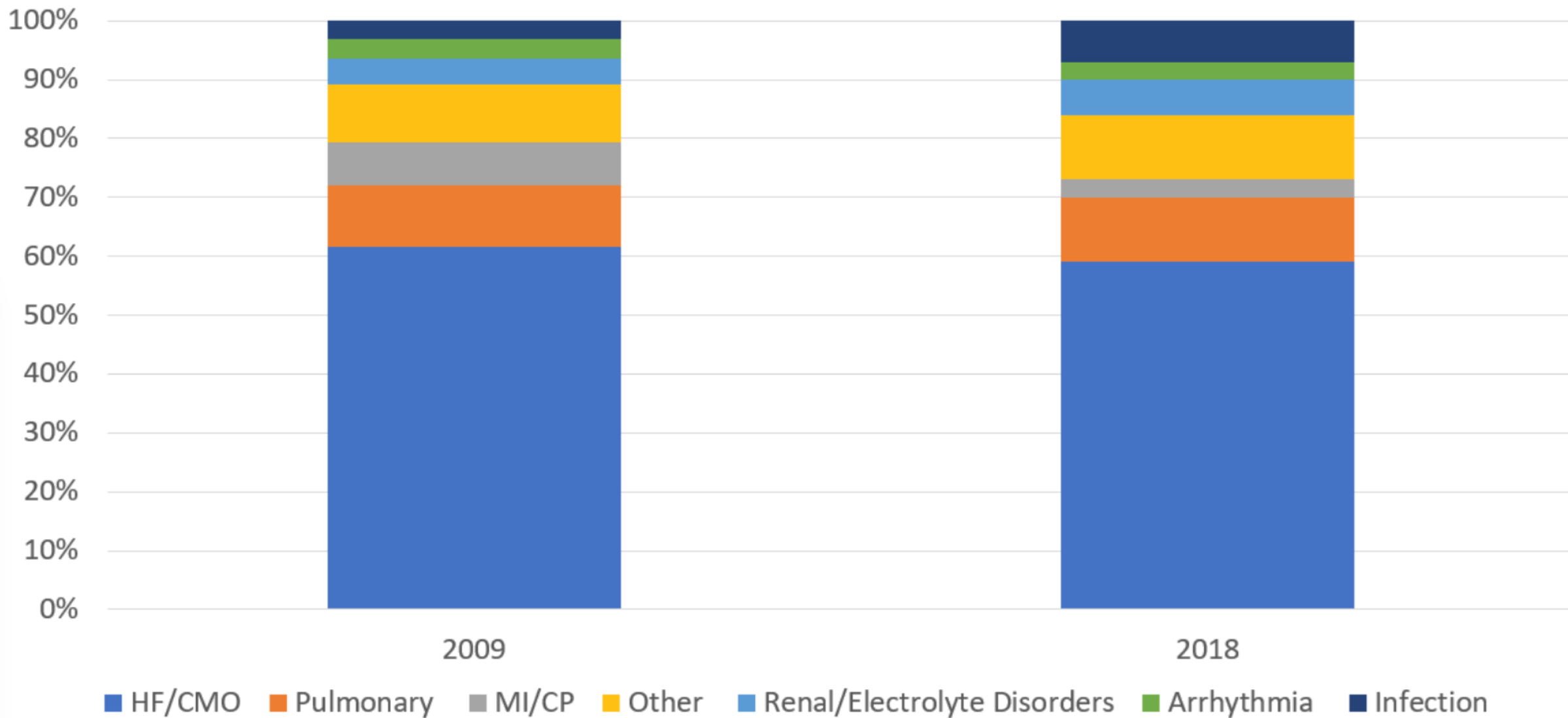


# Integrated Measurement & Evaluation Framework

## Bird's Eye View



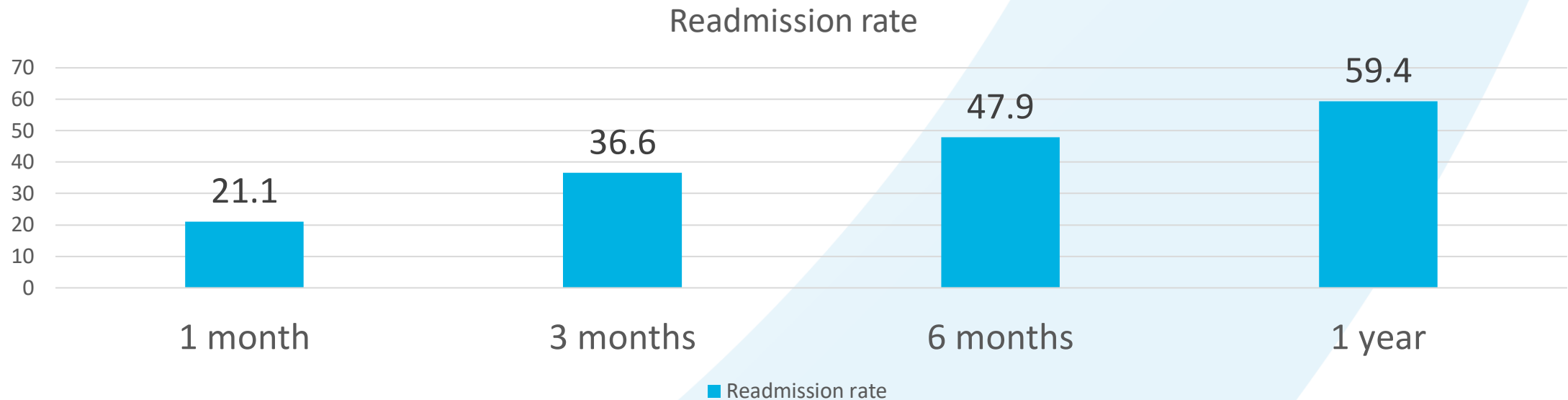
### Figure 8 - Reasons for HF re-admissions in 2009 and 2018



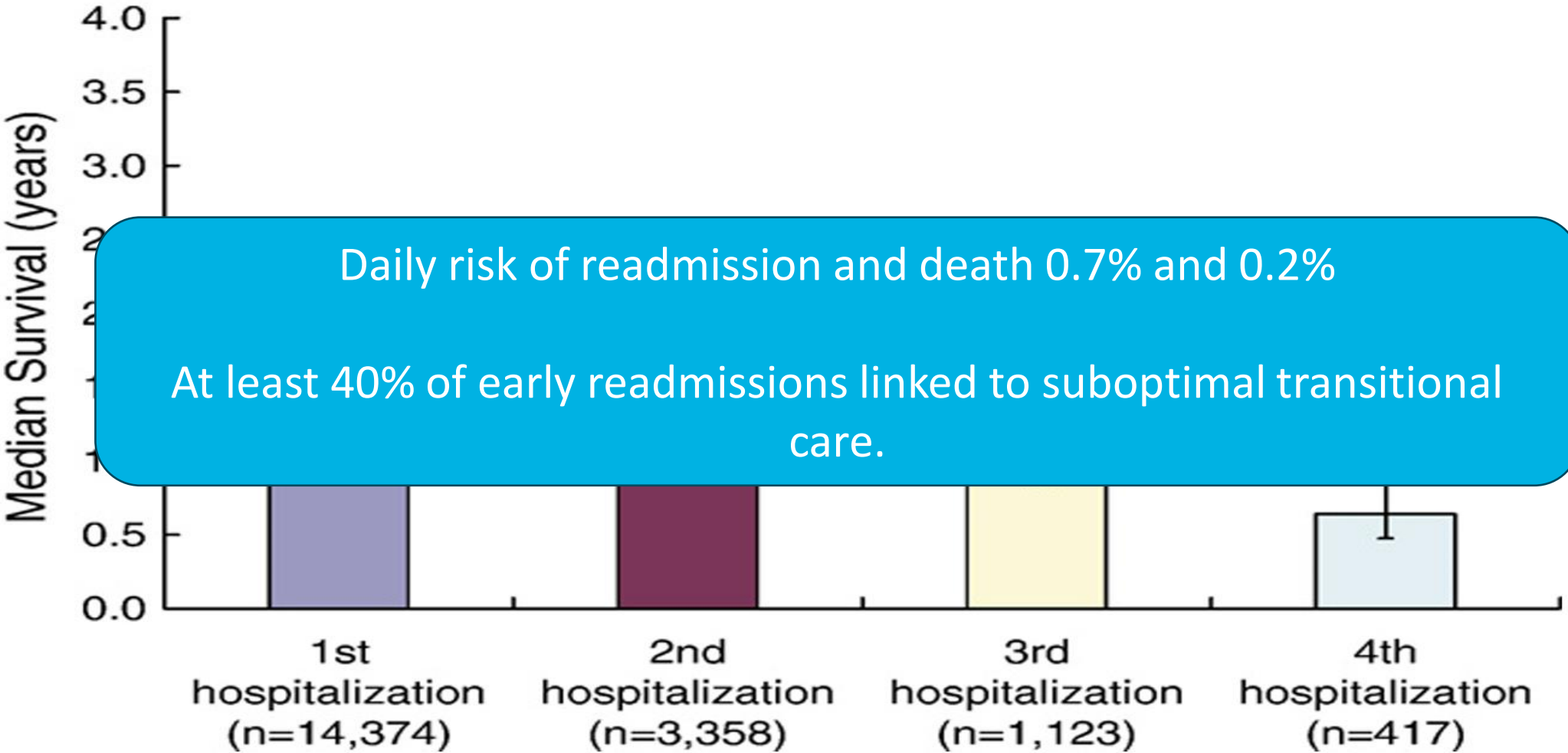


# Rehospitalizations among Patients in the Medicare Fee-for-Service Program

Stephen F. Jencks, M.D., M.P.H., Mark V. Williams, M.D.,  
and Eric A. Coleman, M.D., M.P.H.



# Why readmission matter = Increase death

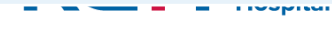


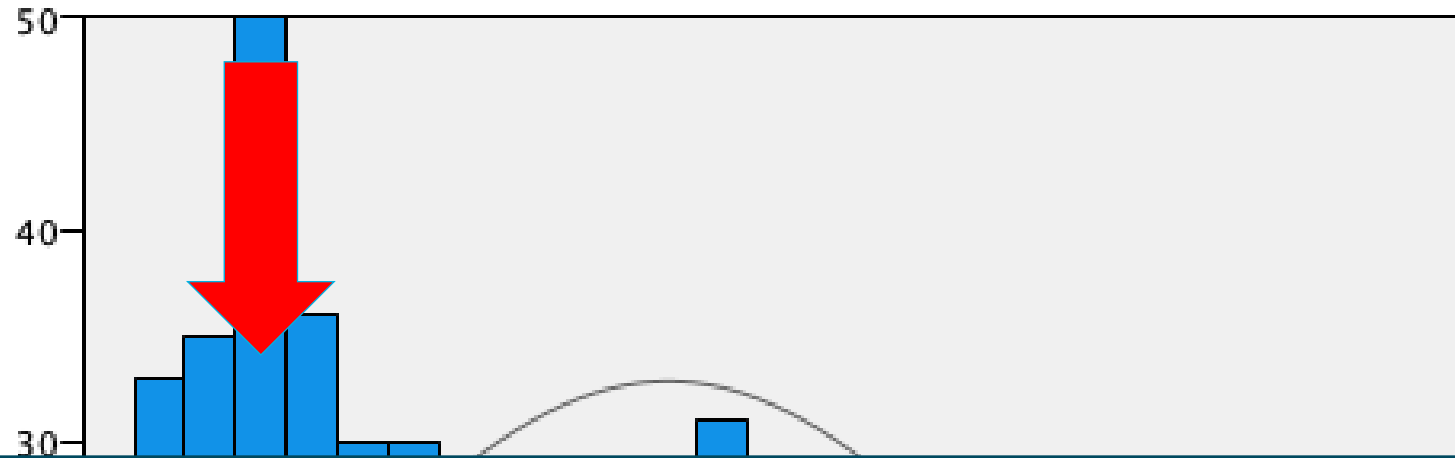
(Am Heart J 2007;154:26026.)



# 2166 patients admitted at KHSC from 2019-2023

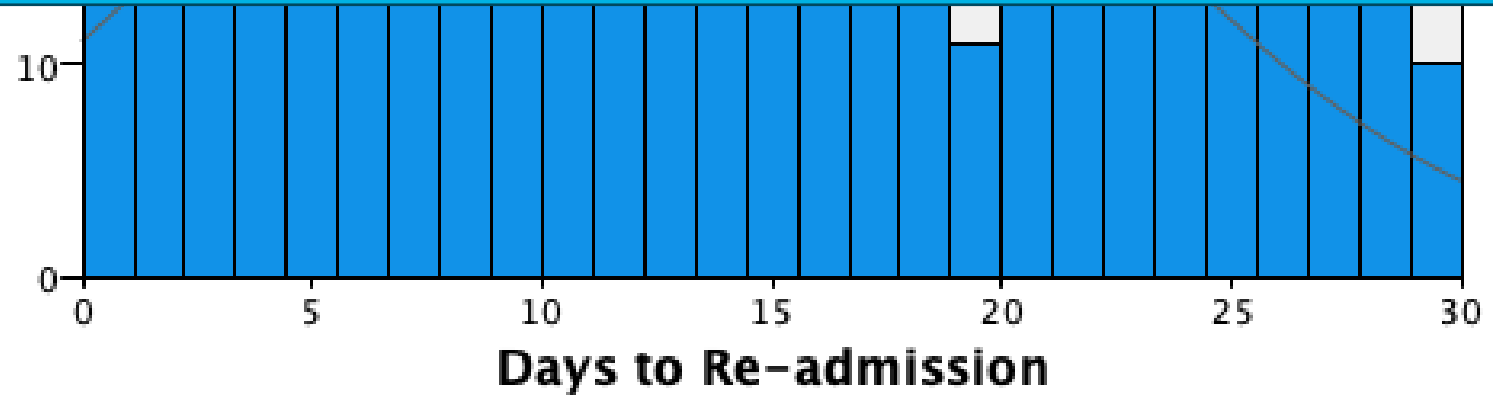
	Readmission (642)	No readmission (1524)
Age	74.7+/- 14	79.0+/-12
Gender (female)	319 (48.3%)	793 (53.5%)
Length of stay	8.9 +/-11	10.5 +/- 16
Initial admission to Cardio	267 (41.6%)	653 (42.8%)
Initial admission to critical bed	102 (16%)	299 (20%)
Weekend discharge	83 (13%)	223 (14.6%)
Death within 30 days	140 (21.8%)	10 (0.7%)
BNP	242 (38.0%)	597 (39.0%)
ECG	232 (36.0%)	406 (27.0%)





Daily risk of readmission and death 0.7% and 0.2%

At least 40% of early readmissions linked to suboptimal transitional care.



## Heart Failure Hospitalization Interactive Decision Pathway

The decision pathway is structured into 5 main nodes: Admission, Trajectory Check, Transition to Oral Therapies, Discharge, and First Follow-Up Visit ([Figure 1](#)). This tool contains a precursor section to Admission (Triage in the ED), as well as Palliative care. Although the nodes follow sequentially during an admission, their timing is flexible, and they clearly flow into each other. The trajectory check is a recurring theme rather than a specific event.

Use this tool to provide structure to the process of assessing the clinical course and planning future therapy by reviewing the timing and key points of each node, relevant figures and tools, and consulting additional supporting text when needed. Information collected at each point would ideally be accessible not only in the hospital, but also in outpatient settings and as a reference point for evaluation of recurrent presentations.

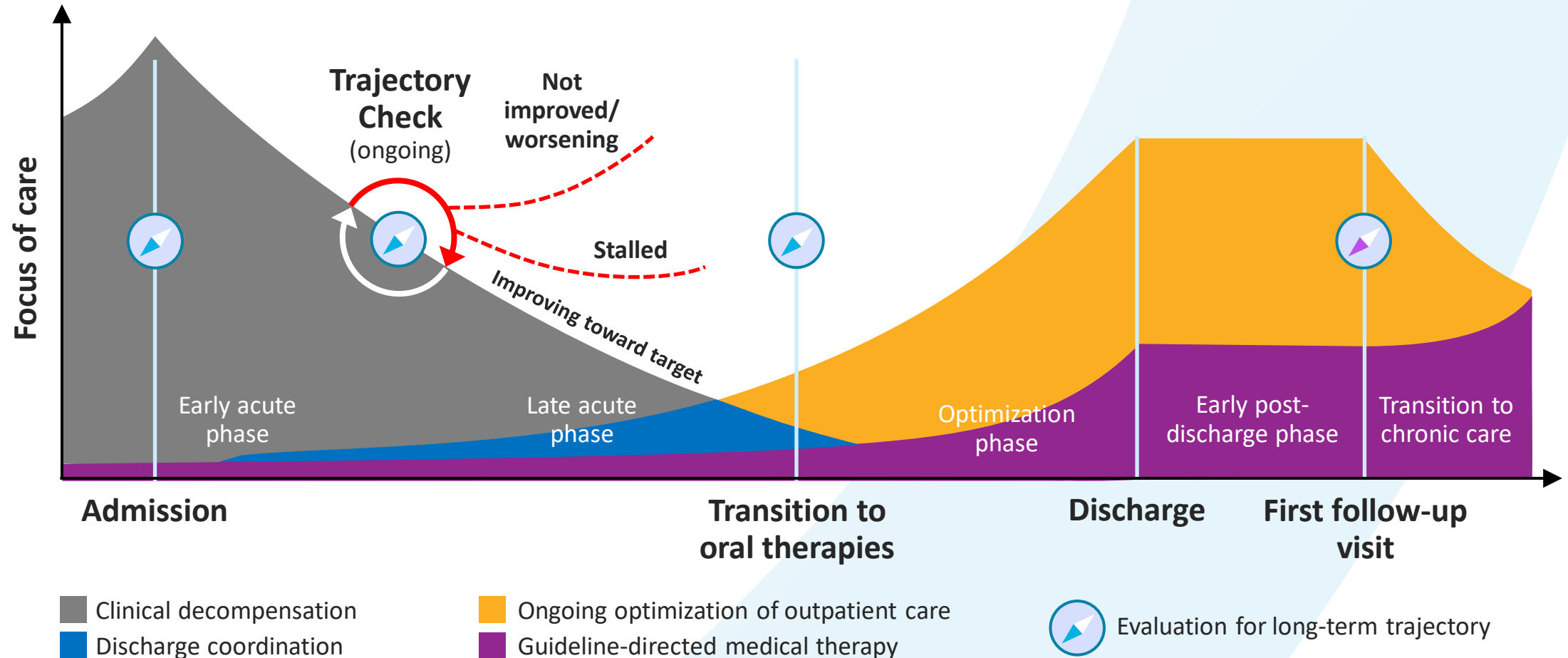
### The Complete Tool Pack

[HF Hospitalization Toolkit](#)

[HF Hospitalization Policy Document](#)



# Pathway to improve HF outcomes begins at admission

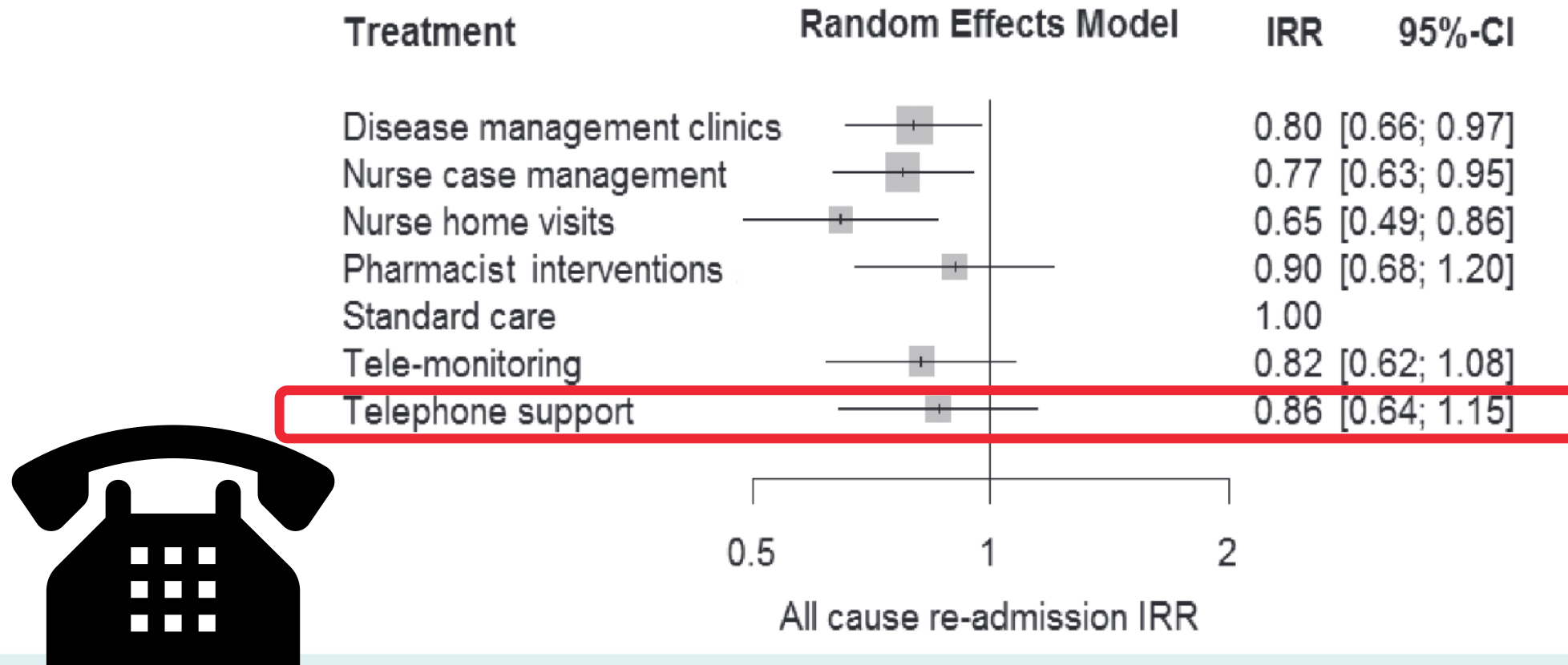


# Comparative effectiveness of transitional care services in patients discharged from the hospital with heart failure: a systematic review and network meta-analysis

**Harriette G.C. Van Spall<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Tahseen Rahman<sup>2</sup>, Oliver Mytton<sup>3</sup>,  
Chinthanie Ramasundarahettige<sup>1</sup>, Quazi Ibrahim<sup>1</sup>, Conrad Kabali<sup>4</sup>,  
Michiel Coppens<sup>5</sup>, R. Brian Haynes<sup>2</sup>, and Stuart Connolly<sup>1</sup>**



# All-cause readmissions



**Figure 3** Comparative effectiveness of transitional care services in reducing all-cause readmissions after hospitalization for heart failure. Results of the network meta-analysis are depicted in the forest plot. CI, confidence interval; IRR, incident rate ratio.



## Clinical Pearls

### Virtual Follow-up

- Ensure patient is taking their medications as prescribed. Ensure they have the correct dosage. Blister packaging is an effective tool.
- Weigh themselves daily, same time, make it a routine.
- EPIMR once daily, make it a routine (before/after pills).
- Self-evaluation of symptoms. Self care is key (2% of patient's time spent with HC providers).
- To evaluate any symptoms (particularly dyspnea): "How do they feel in comparison to when they arrived in hospital, how do they feel now in comparison to discharge?"

**B. Call Documentation (check appropriate)**

Consent obtained:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <i>(call discontinued)</i>	
Call completed with:	<input type="checkbox"/> Patient	<input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver (Power of Attorney or Substitute Decision Maker)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare organization or provider	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Rapid Response Nurse (RRN) visit complete	<input type="checkbox"/> Patient has no further questions <input type="checkbox"/> Patient has further questions, see notes	
Call NOT completed:	<input type="checkbox"/> Call declined		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to reach patient and or caregiver after 2 or more attempts <input type="checkbox"/> See notes		
Initial Call:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Follow-up call	
Patient received My Discharge Plan (MDP) prior to discharge:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Can't recall or lost it
Healthcare provider reviewed MDP with patient and or caregiver prior to discharge:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Can't recall

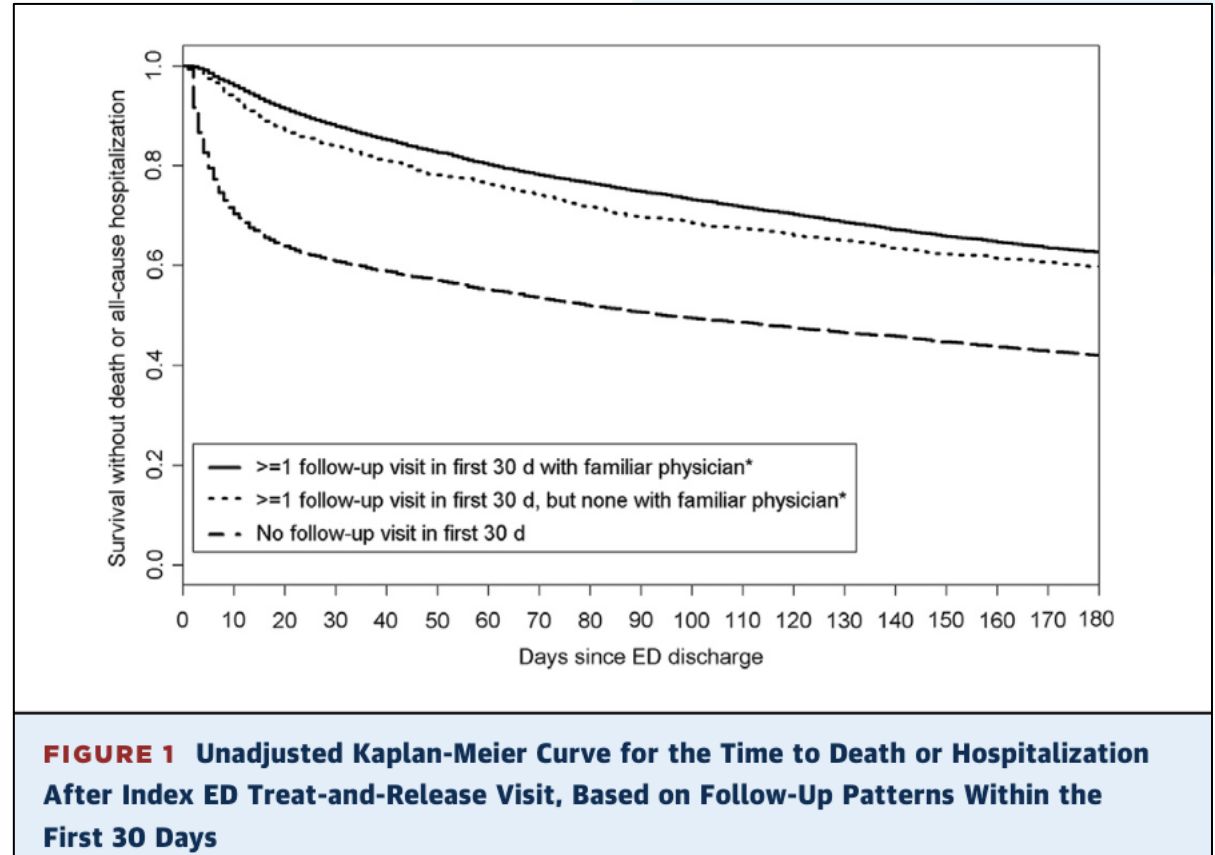
**C. Heart Failure Patient**

How many pillows do you use to sleep at night?	Choose an item.
Has the # of pillows you use, increased since leaving the hospital?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you wake up at night short of breath or gasping to breath?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Has leg swelling increased since leaving the hospital?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Has your weight increased since leaving the hospital?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No What is your weight today? <input type="checkbox"/>

# Physician Continuity Improves Outcomes for Heart Failure Patients Treated and Released From the Emergency Department

Robinder S. Sidhu, MD,\* Erik Youngson, MMATH,† Finlay A. McAlister, MD, MSc\*†‡

## ABSTRACT



# Ken Pritchard

---

**When, why and what to do?**

**Ideally call the office**



# Remote care monitoring





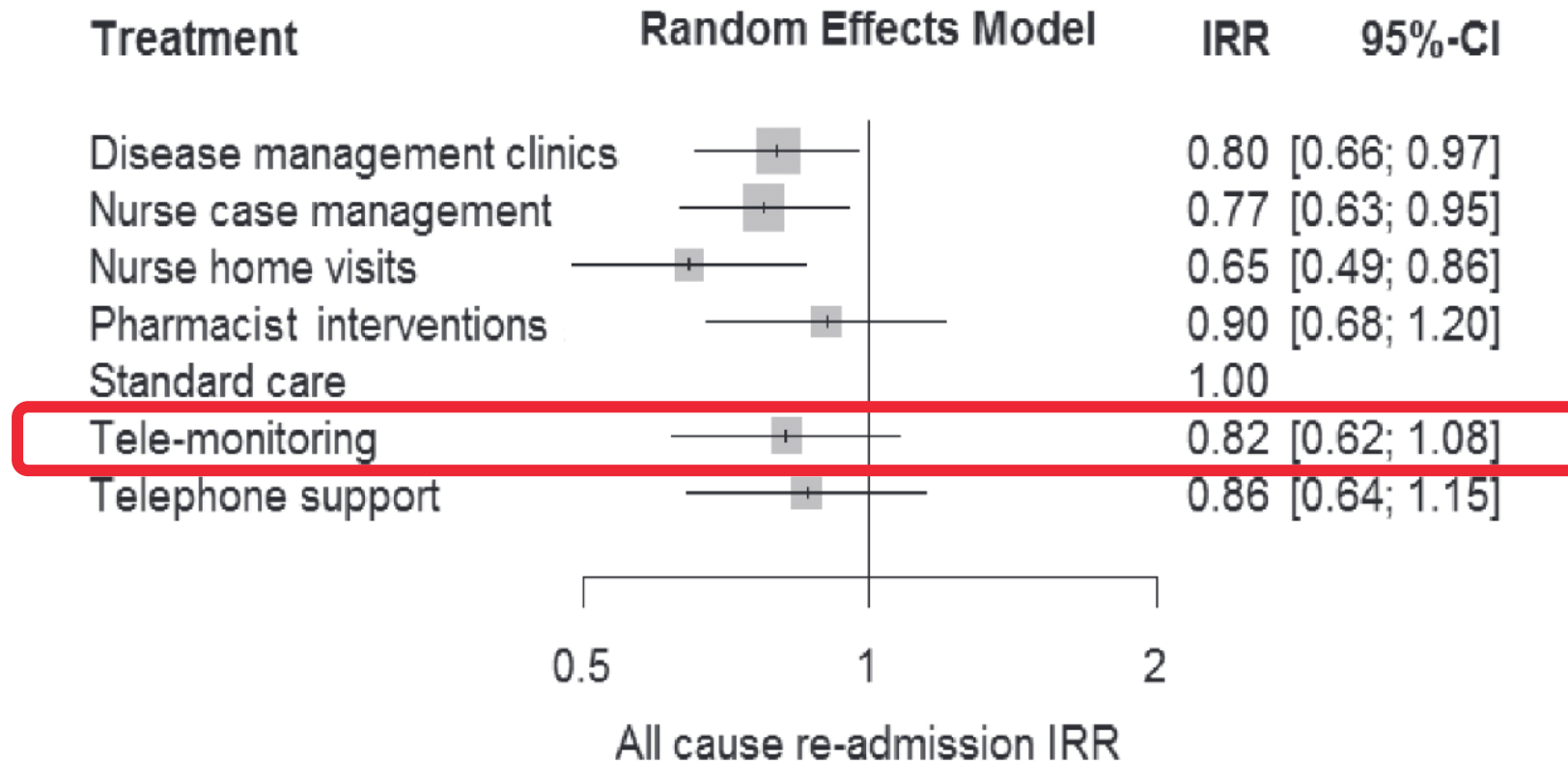
European Journal of Heart Failure (2017) 19, 1427–1443  
doi:10.1002/ejhf.765

**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

# Comparative effectiveness of transitional care services in patients discharged from the hospital with heart failure: a systematic review and network meta-analysis

**Harriette G.C. Van Spall<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Tahseen Rahman<sup>2</sup>, Oliver Mytton<sup>3</sup>,  
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# All-cause readmissions




**Figure 3** Comparative effectiveness of transitional care services in reducing all-cause readmissions after hospitalization for heart failure. Results of the network meta-analysis are depicted in the forest plot. CI, confidence interval; IRR, incident rate ratio.



RESEARCH LETTER · Volume 26, Issue 7, P633-634, July 2020

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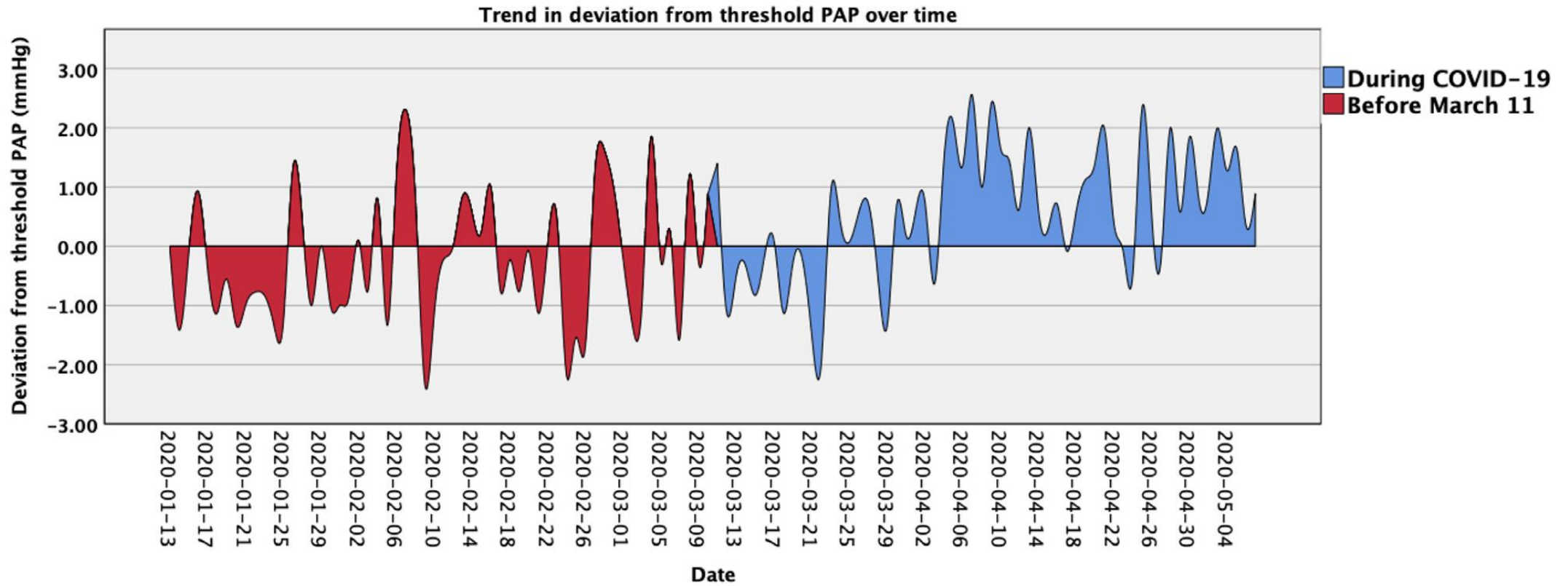
# Short-term Outcomes in Ambulatory Heart Failure during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Insights from Pulmonary Artery Pressure Monitoring

[Aws Almufleh, MBBS, MPH](#) · [Monica Ahluwalia, MD](#) · [Michael M. Givertz, MD](#) · ... · [Elaine L. Shea, RN CHFN](#) · [Mandeep R. Mehra, MBBS, MSc](#) · [Akshay S. Desai, MD, MPH](#)   ... Show more

[Affiliations & Notes](#)  [Article Info](#) 

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**Fig. 1.** Area chart showing trend in deviation from threshold pulmonary artery pressure over time. PAP = pulmonary artery pressure.

# Remote Care Monitoring - CCAC

---

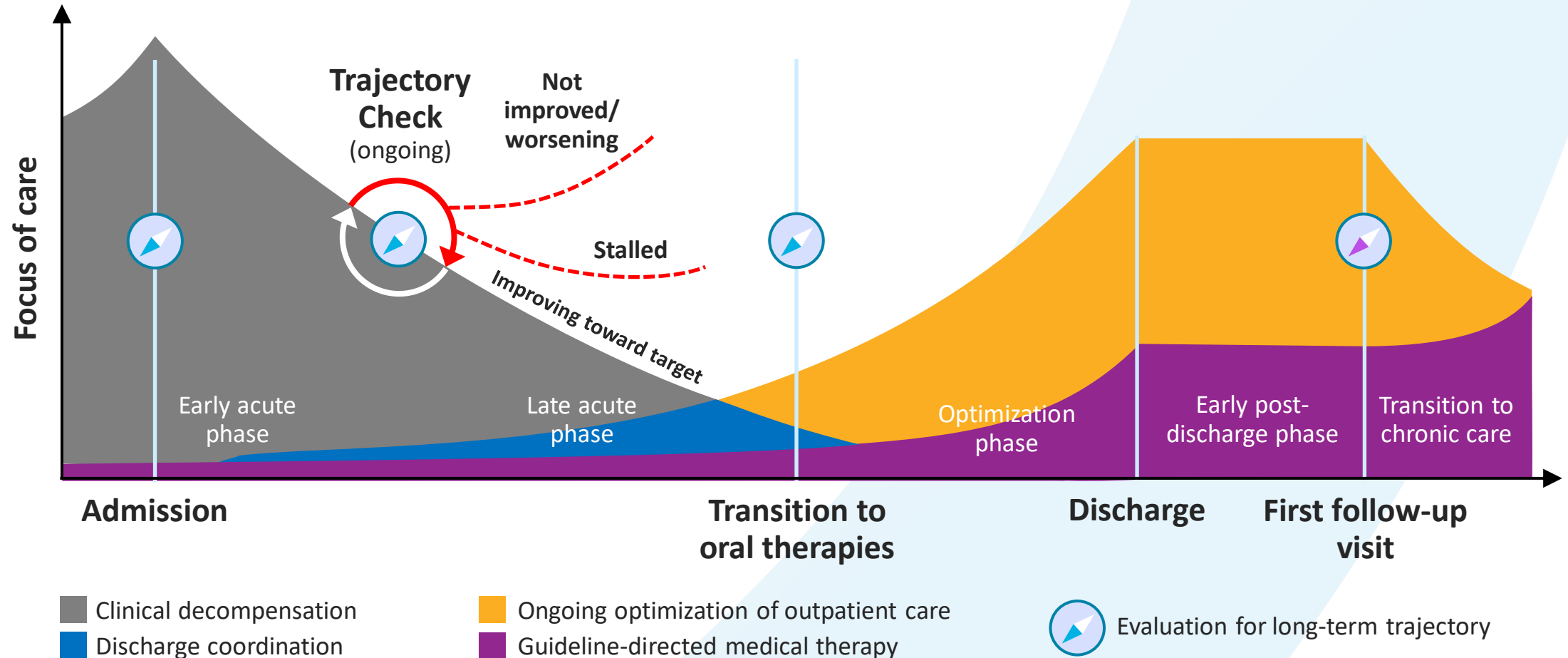
- Consider referring your HF patients for remote care monitoring with CCAC
- Ideal candidates: be comfortable using iPad/iPhone or have a support person to help

Central Access at 1-613-544-8200 ext. 4289.

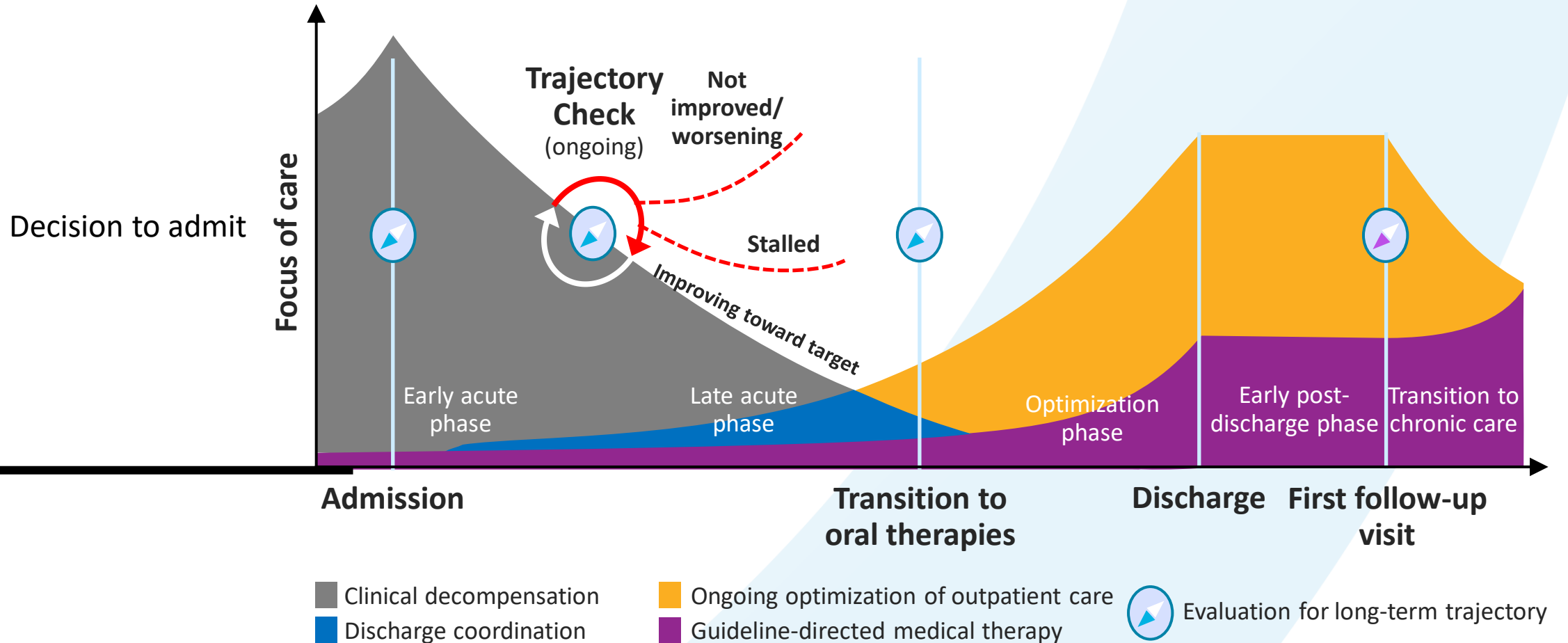
Referrals are faxed to 1-866-839-7299.

Write RCM-Heart Failure

# Pathway to improve HF outcomes begins at admission



# Pathway to improve HF outcomes begins at admission





## **Criteria for Urgent HF Clinic**

1- Signs of volume overload (elevated JVP, lung crackles and/or edema)

**AND**

2-  $\geq 1$  positive test of HF (BNP, CXR, and/or LV dysfunction on echo or POCUS)

**AND**

**3- One of the following**

- $\geq 1$  prior ED visits or HF admissions in the preceding 6 months
- Acute kidney injury and HF
- New low EF ( $< 40\%$ ), and volume overload on no/little medical therapy ( $\leq 1$  out of the 4 classes: 1) ACEi/ARB/Entresto, 2) BB, 3) MRA, 4) SGLT2i)

Please write **URGENT HF clinic** on the referral form  
(will endeavour to see in 2 weeks)

# Hospital at Home



## Assessment & Treatment in ED

- 1st dose of IV diuretics
- ~4 hours of monitoring
- Assess stability (vitals, biomarkers)

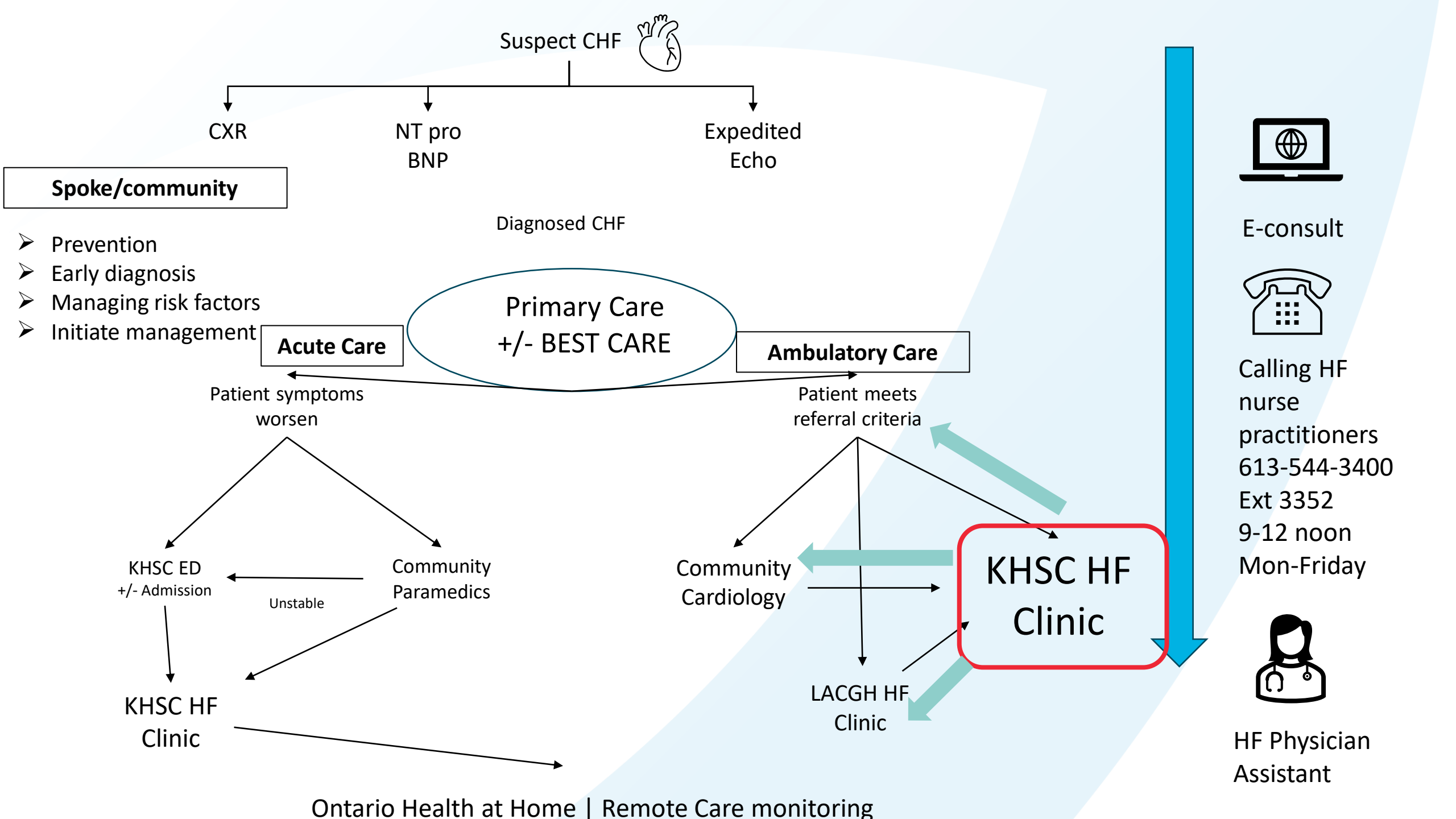
## Discharge to Hospital at Home

- Inform Community Paramedics of new patient
- First CP visit at patient's house within 12-24 hours

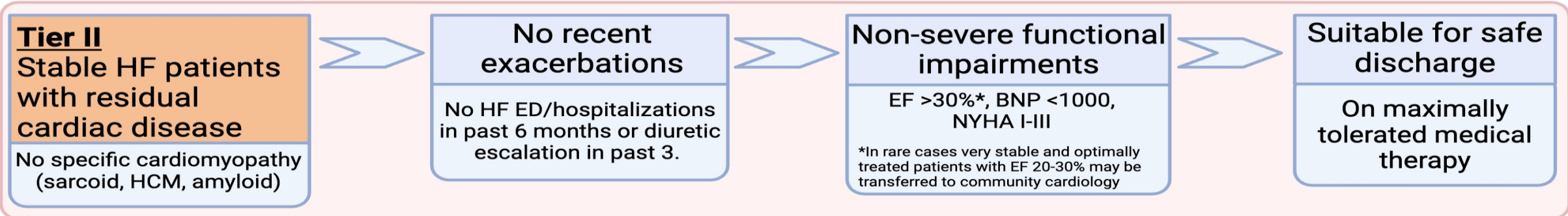
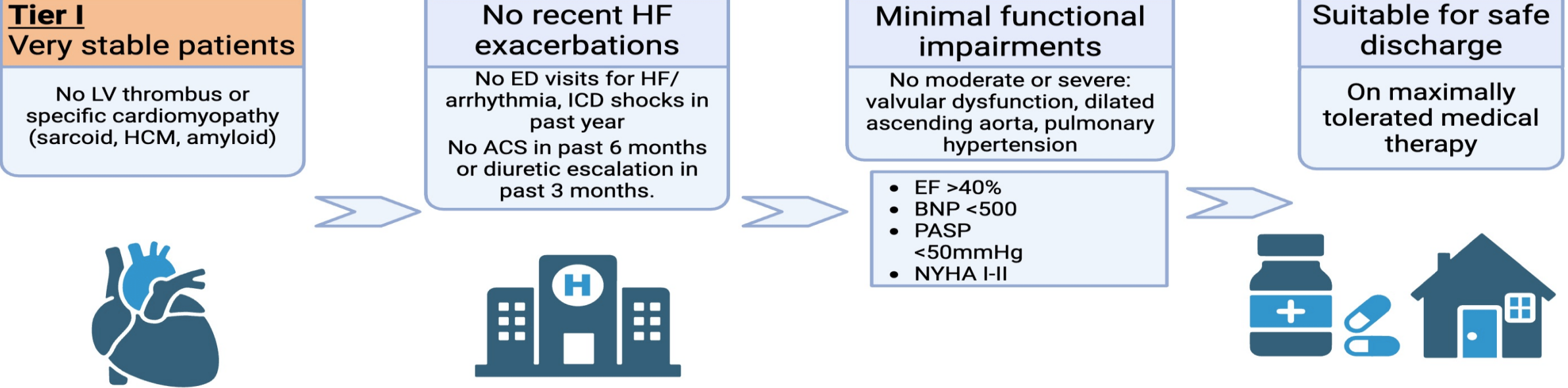


## Hospital at Home









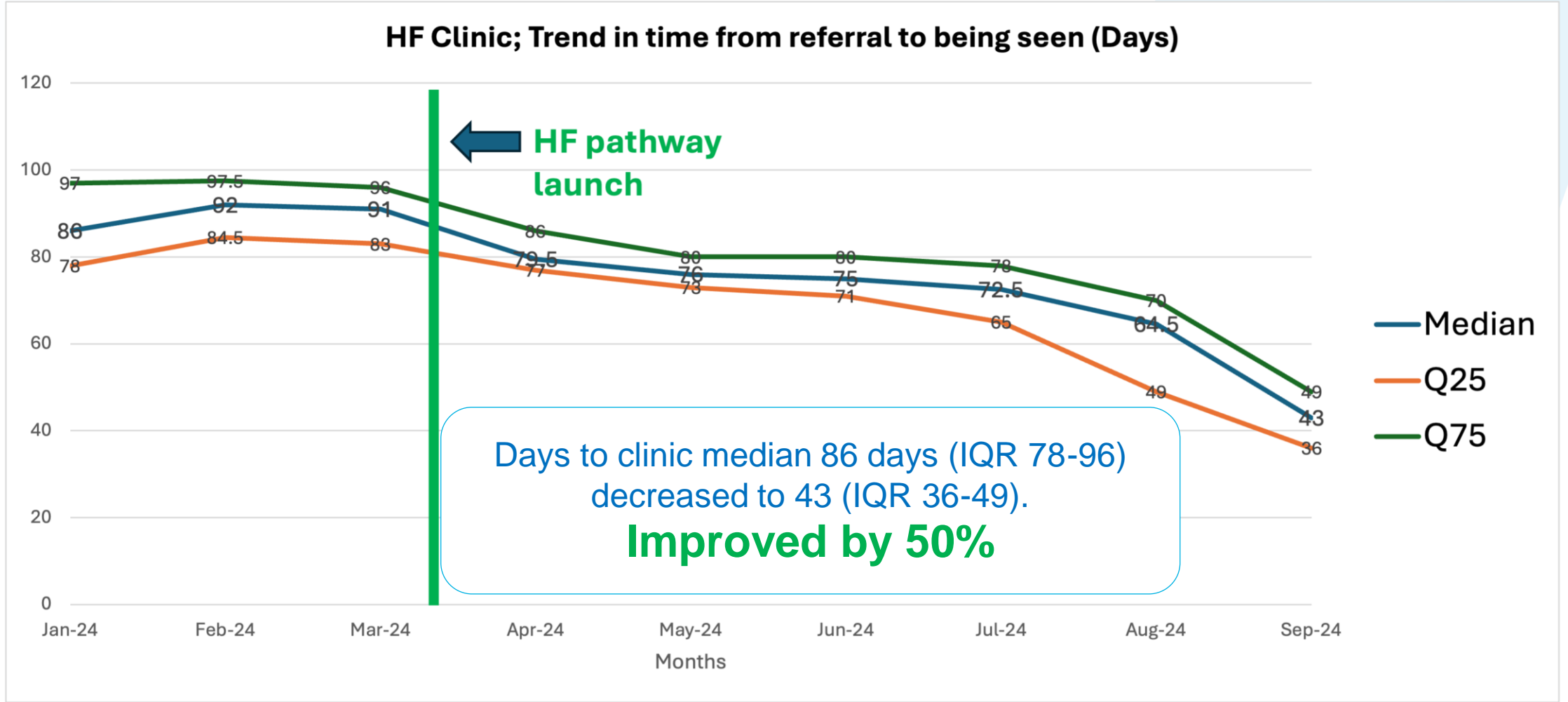
**Abbreviations**

- LV - Left ventricle
- HCM - Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy
- HF - Heart failure
- ED - Emergency department
- EF - Ejection fraction
- BNP - Brain natriuretic peptide
- PASP - Pulmonary artery systolic pressure
- ICD - Implantable cardioverter-defibrillator
- ACS - Acute coronary syndrome

**Criteria for safe discharge from the Heart Function Clinic**

- **Tier I: For patients with recovered ejection fraction** and no residual heart disease --> to follow with primary care providers
- **Tier II: For patients with improved ejection fraction** and some residual heart disease --> to follow with community cardiologists

# Expanding capacity of HF clinic

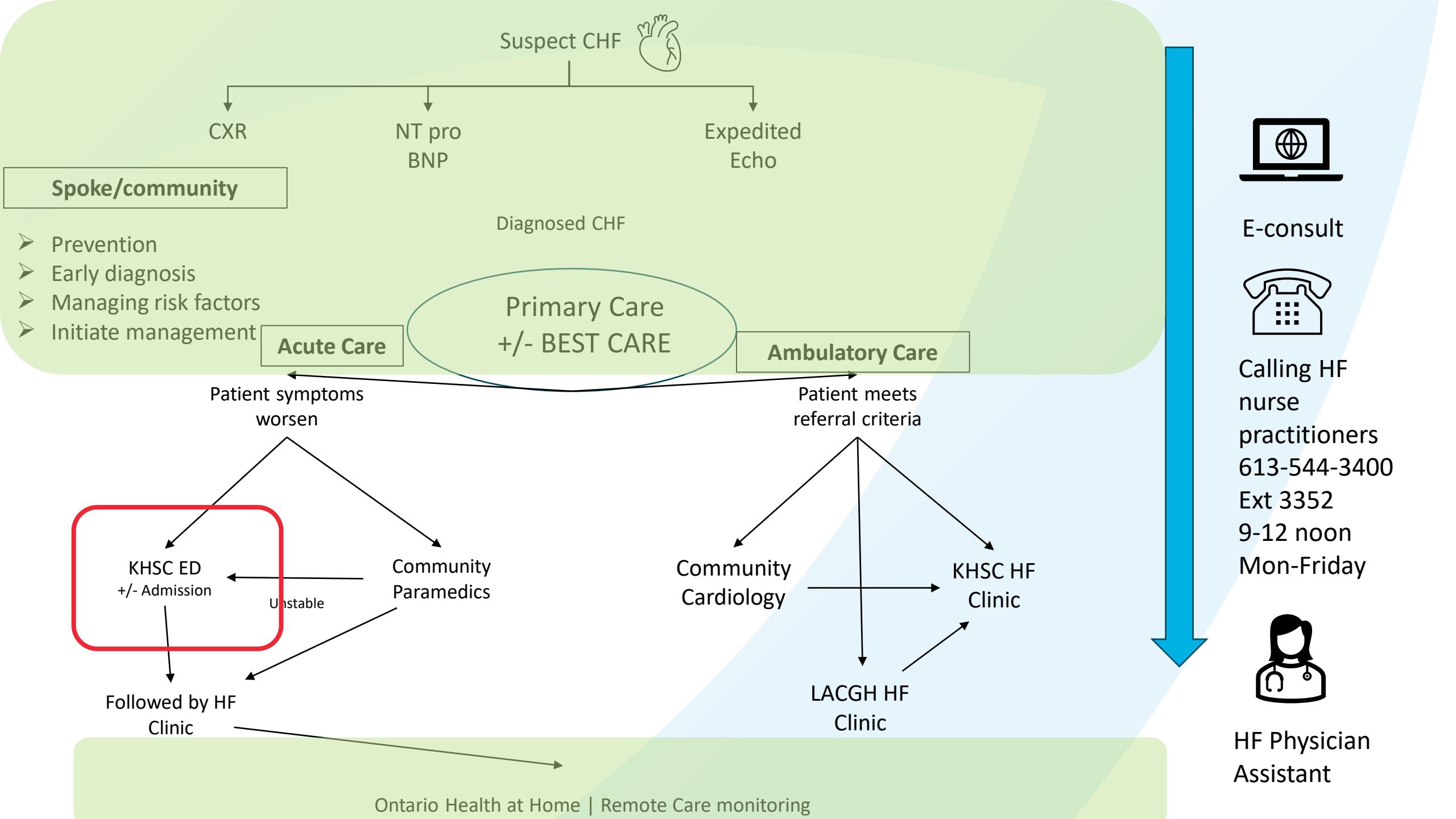


Right now,

**1 in 5  
Ontarians**

are on track to be  
without a family doctor  
in the next two years







- **Prevent hospital readmission**
- **Prevent return to the ED**
- **Connect socially disadvantaged patients**
- **Facilitate discharge from HF clinic**

**Centres de santé  
communautaire de Kingston**

# Sustainability



# QBP funding

## No Loss provision

### ! Important to Know

#### LHIN-Managed Elective

- Acute Primary Unilateral Hip Replacement - **\$5,214**
- Rehab Primary Unilateral Hip Replacement - **\$9,005**
- Acute Primary Unilateral Knee Replacement - **\$5,188**
- Rehab Primary Unilateral Knee Replacement - **\$8,873**
- Acute Primary Bilateral Joint Replacement - **\$5,222**
- Rehab Primary Bilateral Joint Replacement - **\$7,745**
- Unilateral Cataract Day Surgery (Only Direct) - **\$3,533**
- Non-Routine and Bilateral Cataract (Only Direct) - **\$3,821**
- Acute Non-Cardiac Vascular Aortic Aneurysm - **\$5,342**
- Acute Non-Cardiac Vascular Lower Extremity Occlusive Disease (LEOD) - **\$4,896**
- Acute Tonsillectomy - **\$4,822**
- Knee Arthroscopy - **\$5,270**

#### LHIN-Managed

- Acute Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) - **\$5,342**
- Acute Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) - **\$5,110**
- Acute Stroke Hemorrhage - **\$5,452**
- Acute Stroke Ischemic or Unspecified - **\$4,970**
- Acute Stroke Transient Ischemic Attack - **\$5,513**
- Acute Hip Fracture - **\$5,286**
- Acute Neonatal Jaundice - **\$5,432**
- Acute Pneumonia - **\$4,926**

# QBP report 2023-2024

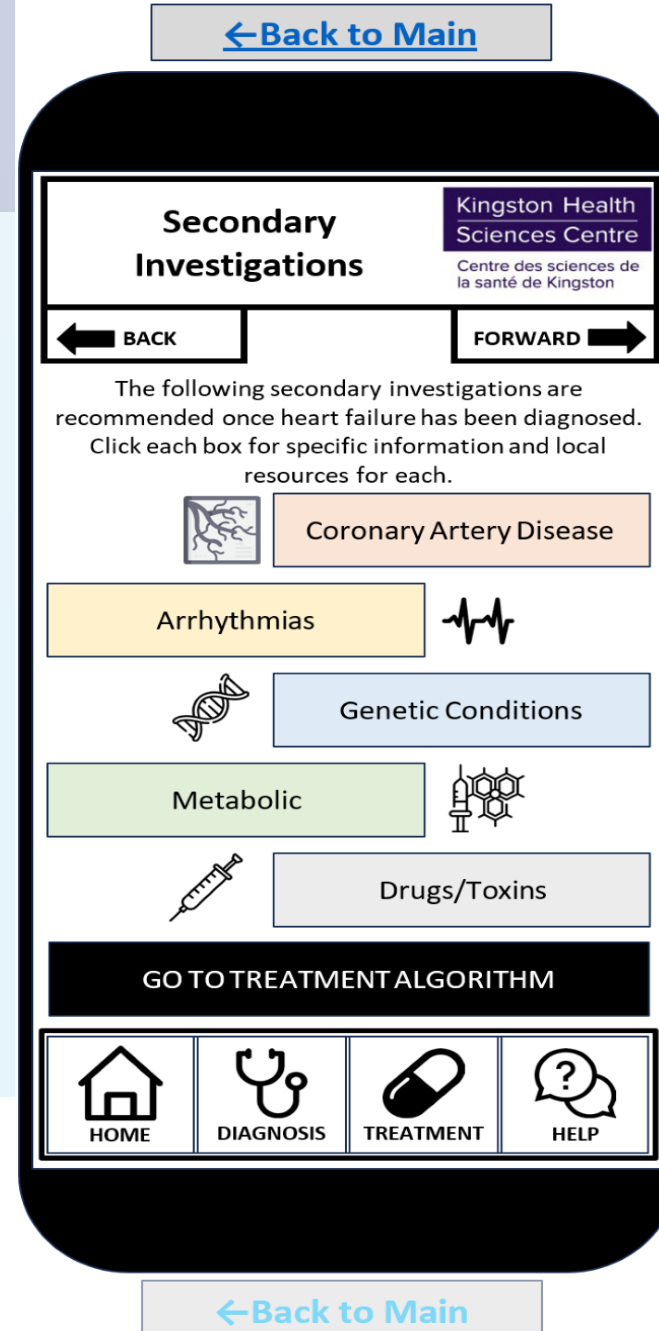
\$65,000

QBP (Subgroup)	Initial Funded Volumes (F24)	OH Reallocated volumes	Ending Funded Volumes (F24)	Actuals (F24)	Initial Funded Volumes (F25)
Congestive Heart Failure	468	(3)	465	458	480



# Future projects

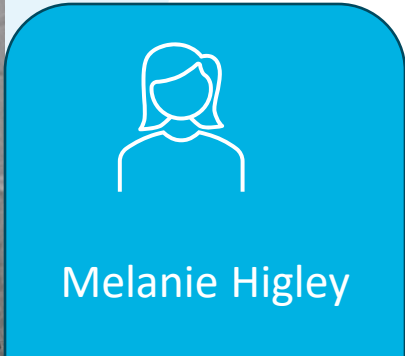
- For every admission, 2 patients discharged from ED.  
(33% return in 30-days, 39% in 90-days, ~ >25% return  $\geq 3$  times in 4 month period)
- Support community hub clinics: APEX, Lennox & Addington CHF clinic:
- Educational lectures; directly to the community
- HF iPhone/Android application to assist trainees and clinicians in the diagnosis and management of HF patients



# Take home messages

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- HF is highly prevalent and costly disease to the system
- Effective management starts with prompt diagnosis in the community; Easy access to diagnostic tests and interpretation
- Integrated care can enable all (most) patients receive the care they need at the right point of care continuum
- Readmissions are frequent, costly, and largely preventable!
- Gathering information (calls/RCM/etc) do not necessarily equate better outcomes, it is what you do with the data
- Must collaborate with primary care physicians
- Any successful strategy must not ignore unattached patients



**FLAOHT**

Frontenac Lennox & Addington  
Ontario Health Team

**ÉSOFLA**

Équipe Santé Ontario de  
Frontenac, Lennox et Addington

**Kingston Health  
Sciences Centre**

Centre des sciences de  
la santé de Kingston



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Hotel Dieu  
Hospital



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Kevin Loughlin

Dendra Hillier

Ani Garg

Kim Morrison

\* Kerry Stewart

Hannah Green



Ontario  
Health



# Questions & Discussion

# HF CoP Webinar Calendar

## Upcoming Webinars:

### Utilizing NT-proBNP as a screening tool in primary and community care settings.

This clinical webinar will focus on the role of NT-proBNP as a valuable screening tool in primary and community settings. Dr Stephanie Poon will provide practical advice on how the use of NT-proBNP to screen and identify patients early can improve patient outcomes by facilitating timely referrals and interventions.

**Friday December 13<sup>th</sup>, 12:00p.m. – 1:00 p.m. (EST)**

**Registration is required:**

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpfu-vrTkuGtDV9iL9\\_mK1uRMCqWW0b62C](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpfu-vrTkuGtDV9iL9_mK1uRMCqWW0b62C)



[Click here](#) to join the HF CoP

1. Visit the [OHT Shared Space](#) and click “SIGN UP” to create your account.
2. Click the “JOIN GROUP” button. You will receive an email notification when you’ve been accepted into the group.  
*Note: You are automatically accepted into the [“General Discussion”](#) Group.*
3. Don’t forget to click on the [“Subscribe to Updates”](#) button once you’ve been accepted into your CoP, to stay updated with all the latest conversations, webinars and resources.



Any questions/concerns? Contact the OH ICP Project Team at [OHTSupport@OntarioHealth.ca](mailto:OHTSupport@OntarioHealth.ca)



# Thank You

OH HF Project Team