

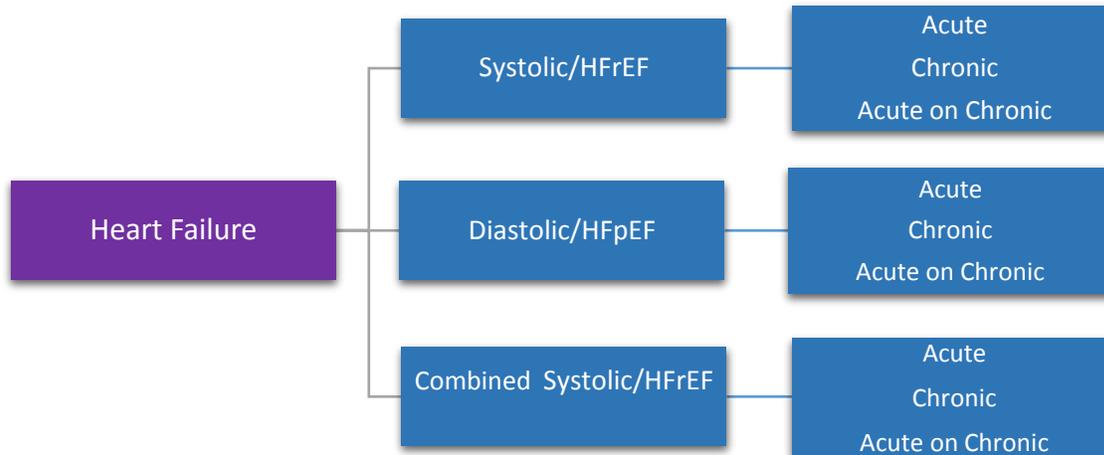
East Jefferson General Hospital



Clinical Documentation Tip Congestive Heart Failure

September 2020

Type AND acuity of heart failure must be documented to assign a complete code, to provide an accurate reflection of severity of illness and risk of mortality of your patient, and to receive full credit for the work done in treating our CHF patients.



Exacerbation and Decompensation:

The **acuity** of heart failure can be coded as **acute** when the condition is documented as “exacerbation/exacerbated” or “decompensation/decompensated. Please remember **type** of heart failure must also be documented.

Ex: Patient admitted with exacerbation of CHF. Instead consider: Patient admitted with exacerbation of HFpEF.

Coding Guidelines:

When clinical criteria for heart failure are present along with **treatment** such as supplemental oxygen, IV diuretics, Inotropic drips, nitro-glycerine, etc... , this may prompt CDI to send a query for verification of heart failure including type, cause and acuity if those elements are not present in the documentation.

- Please note: Per coding guidelines, a causal relationship between hypertension and heart failure, and between chronic kidney disease and heart failure is assumed, unless the documentation clearly states the conditions are unrelated.

Ex: Heart failure caused by certain chemotherapy medications or other conditions.

- If CXR shows pulmonary edema, and pulmonary edema is not due to heart failure, please remember to document cause, and most importantly the **acuity**. Flash pulmonary edema cannot be reported as acute pulmonary edema.

Risk Adjustment

Did you know?: Complete and accurate documentation of heart failure will **impact reimbursement, reduce denials, and can greatly impact the Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program for Heart Failure.**

Thank you for all you do!



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