

What is it? A chart flag that may be affixed to your WellCare 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:

no Echo cardiography ◊ MUGA ◊ Cardiac catheterization with L ventriculogram

Preferred Drug List:

ACE Inhibitors: Lisinopril, Enalapril, Captopril

Selective Beta-Adenergetic Blockers: Coreg®, Toprol XL®, Metoprolol