

**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-Adrenergic 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-Adrenergic 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:
  - Echo cardiography
  - MUGA
  - Cardiac catheterization with L ventriculogram

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**Preferred Drug List:**

**ACE Inhibitors:** Lisinopril, Enalapril, Captopril

**Selective Beta-Adrenergic Blockers:** Carvedilol, Metoprolol Succinate ER, Metoprolol

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