



Quality Enhancement Research Initiative

Heart Failure Provider Network

Chronic Heart Failure-QUERI Update

February 2008

*Heart failure (HF) is associated with high mortality and poor quality of life. HF currently affects nearly 5 million Americans, and hospital admissions for this condition have increased six-fold in the United States since 1970 (from 80,000 per year to more than 500,000) due, in part, to an aging population. Moreover, HF is the number one reason for discharge for veterans treated within the VA healthcare system. The Chronic Heart Failure Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (CHF-QUERI), with the help of Dr. Robert Jesse, National Program Director for Cardiology, and VA's Patient Care Services, has initiated the **Heart Failure Provider Network** – a network of VA providers interested in improving heart failure care throughout the VA healthcare system. Currently, more than 300 providers (clinicians, researchers, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and others) are participating in this network.*

What is the Purpose of the Heart Failure Provider Network?

The Heart Failure Provider Network is an important mechanism for the implementation of interventions that will improve the health and healthcare for veterans with HF. Through its collaboration, the Network will:

- Share experiences with different heart failure care programs;
- Disseminate effective interventions, including implementation of quality improvement interventions;
- Focus on IHI's (Institute for Healthcare Improvement) *Save 5 Million Lives* Campaign to improve early follow-up after hospital discharge for patients with heart failure;
- Collaborate on heart failure registries;
- Identify interested facilities for participation in multi-center health services research projects and other clinical trials; and
- Contribute to implementation research by understanding barriers and facilitators to implementation.

How Does the Heart Failure Network Communicate?

Live meetings and conference calls are held every two months. These sessions include announcements, discussion of new projects and trials, and a description of one facility's heart failure program. In addition, there is one in-person meeting that is held at the Annual Meeting of the Heart Failure Society of America (for

those Network members who are able to attend). The next meeting will be held in Toronto, Canada in September 2008 (for more information, go to www.hfsa.org). The Network also communicates via e-mail.

What are the Network's Plans for the Future?

- Creation of affiliated interest groups within heart failure, such as echocardiography; and
- Implementation of interventions, such as reminders and nurse-based clinics.

Can Anyone Join?

There is no limit to the number of people who may join per facility. Currently, the Network includes a mix of physicians, nurses, researchers, physician assistants, and administrators.

How Do I Learn More?

For information about joining the
Heart Failure Provider Network, contact:

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Web Resources

For more information about CHF-QUERI visit:

<http://www.chfqueri.research.va.gov>

For more information about the QUERI
program in general,
visit the national QUERI website at:

<http://www.hsrp.research.va.gov/QUERI>

CHF-QUERI Executive Committee

Each QUERI Executive Committee is co-chaired by a research expert and a clinician. The research coordinator for CHF-QUERI is **Paul Heidenreich, MD MS**; the clinical coordinator is **Barry Massie, MD**. This Executive Committee includes other experts in the field of heart failure and implementation science, including: Anita Deswal, MD; Mark Dunlap, MD; Stephen Ezeji-Okoye, MD; Gregg Fonarow, MD; Elaine Furmaga, PharmD; Peter Groeneveld, MD, MPH; Robert L. Jesse, MD, PHD; Harlan Krumholz, MD, MPH; Ileana Piña, MD; John Rumsfeld, MD, PhD; **Anju Sahay, PhD** (Implementation Research Coordinator); Martha Shively, RN, PhD; John Spertus, MD, MPH; and Douglas Wholey, PhD, MBA.