# Assessing knowledge and attitudes of nursing staff regarding congestive heart failure medication regimens and impact on patient understanding post-discharge

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## Introduction

Patients diagnosed with congestive heart failure (CHF) are taking several complex medications, without fully understanding the role of those medications in improving their disease state and preventing hospitalization.

### **Background**

A previous study conducted at the institution in 2018 found that 68% of patients who were readmitted did not understand their disease state, and 52% of patients did not understand the medications they were prescribed.

By providing education to patients and including nurses in the education, patients may be more aware of their regimen and be able to prevent the worsening of their disease state.

#### **Disclosures**

The authors have no financial relationships to disclose.

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### **Outcomes**

Primary outcome: Percent of nurses that can accurately identify all medications that improve mortality in systolic heart failure with reduced ejection fraction.

Secondary outcome: Percent of patients 1-2 weeks post-discharge that can accurately identify at least 3 of the 6 medications in the knowledge survey that improve mortality in systolic heart failure with reduced ejection fraction. Other outcomes include percentage of patients who answer CHF medication questions correctly, and patient perceptions of care

#### Knowledge Survey: if nursing and patients can identify

- Medications that reduce mortality
- Appropriate counseling points
- Common side effects
- Mechanism of a drug class
- Drug class

#### Attitudes about Medication Education: if nursing felt

- to educate patients regarding new medications

## Methods

An IRB-approved observational study involving a retrospective review of medical records and concurrent review of voluntary surveys.

Nursing staff will be anonymously surveyed about congestive heart failure medication regimens and attitudes towards medication education.

Patients admitted with a diagnosis of congestive heart failure will be peri-prospectively identified via a report generated by the electronic medical record for a 3 month period. Patients and/or caregivers will be contacted 1-2 weeks post-discharge for a patientspecific knowledge and attitudes assessment.

#### References

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#### Perception of **Medication Education** Survey: if patients/caregivers felt

- There was value added to patient care with medication education
- help medication education for patients