

Abstract

The purpose of this project is to develop an inclusive chronic heart failure (CHF) disease management program within a private practice cardiology setting based upon the established guidelines of the American College of Cardiology, American Heart Association and the Heart Failure Society of America. The disease management program will be implemented in an outpatient setting by expert nurse practitioners in the practice of cardiology. Proper management will be defined as the review and implementation of current medications and treatments according to national guidelines, decrease of inpatient hospitalization, increase in overall health status and forward health care dollars to increase outpatient clinic revenue. When CHF patients are properly managed in the outpatient setting, a slowing of or reversal in disease progression can be created, often resulting in improved quality of life.

Currently an outpatient CHF disease management program is not available at the designated private cardiology practice. Recent CHF literature supports a benefit for this population if cared for by nurse practitioners in an outpatient setting. The objectives of the CHF disease management program are to identify and recruit patients with CHF, or those at risk of progression to CHF. Patients enrolled in the program receive a systematic clinical evaluation, detailed CHF education will be provided, and assessment of risk for heart rhythm abnormalities. Continuity of care is achieved through the use of a nurse practitioner committed to a CHF protocol. The proposed disease management program will also generate clinic revenue for the practice while decreasing dollars spent on inpatient stays, both of which are consistent with the strategic goals of the organization.