

Heart Failure

Episode Definition

Episode Trigger

A Heart Failure episode is triggered by an inpatient admission with a primary diagnosis code for heart failure.

Episode Duration

Episodes begin at inpatient admission for heart failure. Episodes end at the latter of 30 days after the date of discharge for the triggering admission or the date of the discharge for any inpatient readmission initiated within 30 days of the initial discharge.

Episode Services

The episode will include the following services rendered within the duration of the episode:

- Inpatient facility and professional fees for the initial hospitalization and for all cause readmissions
- Within the 30-day post-discharge period: all inpatient and outpatient facility services, professional services, and related medications, treatment for post-discharge complications, home health services, skilled nursing facility care due to acute exacerbation of HF (services not included in episode for patients with SNF care within 30 days prior to episode start), and durable medical equipment

Principal Accountable Provider

The Principal Accountable Provider (PAP) for a Heart Failure episode is the admitting hospital for the triggering hospitalization.

Episode Exclusions

In addition to the *Global Exclusions* for all episodes, episodes meeting any of the following criteria will be excluded:

- Patients under the age of 18 at the time of admission.
- Patients with any inpatient stay within the 30 days prior to the triggering admission.
- Patients with comorbidities diagnosed in the period beginning 365 days before the episode start date and concluding on the episode end date, such as mechanical or left ventricular assist device (LVAD) and intra-aortic balloon pump (IABP).
- Patients who received a pacemaker or cardiac defibrillator within six months prior to the start of the episode or during the episode.
- Patients transferred to acute care or inpatient psych facility upon discharge.

Episode Adjustments

- There are no cost adjustments

Quality and Utilization Measures

The following measures are tracked for informational reporting purposes:

- The percent of patients with 3 or more heart failure episodes in one year.
- The rate of 30-day readmissions.
- Percent of episodes with an echocardiogram performed between 180 days before the episode start date and the episode end date.
- Percent of episodes with an outpatient physician follow-up visit within 14 days post-discharge.
- Percent of episodes with an outpatient physician follow-up visit within 30 days post-discharge.
- Percent of episodes with a repeat heart failure event within 14 days of discharge.
- Average length of stay for inpatient admissions.