

Hospitalization for Heart Failure Backgrounder

Heart failure represents a staggering health and economic burden in the United States.¹ It is the leading cause of hospitalization for Americans over the age of 65, as people living with heart failure often experience debilitating symptoms.^{2,3,4} Keeping people with heart failure healthy and out of the hospital is critical to reducing the health and economic burden associated with the condition.

Understanding the Heart Failure Epidemic

Nearly 6 million Americans have heart failure, or HF, and the number of patients diagnosed continues to grow.⁵ About 870,000 new patients are diagnosed with heart failure every year.⁵ With the aging population, it is estimated that over 8 million Americans will have heart failure by 2030.¹

The symptoms of heart failure can be debilitating.³ Common symptoms include shortness of breath, fatigue, and swelling caused by fluid build up.⁴ When symptoms become worse, patients may be hospitalized.⁶

The Burden of Hospitalization in Heart Failure

Overview

Heart failure is the leading cause of hospitalization among Americans aged 65 years and older.² There are more than 1 million hospitalizations for heart failure annually.⁵ That's nearly 2 hospitalizations every minute.

About one-quarter of HF patients are readmitted to the hospital within one month of discharge,⁷ and about 35% die after 1 year of being hospitalized for HF.⁸ Even with treatment, heart failure mortality remains very high, with up to 50% of patients dying within 5 years of diagnosis.⁹



The Economic Impact

The economic burden of heart failure on our nation is more than \$30 billion every year, when accounting for both direct and indirect costs.¹ Direct costs represent medical spending and indirect costs include the value of lost earnings attributable to heart failure and loss of home productivity.¹ Hospitalizations alone account for almost 80% of the nearly \$21 billion spent on direct costs of heart failure.¹ And the price tag is increasing – experts estimate total heart failure costs (direct and indirect) will grow to nearly \$70 billion by 2030.¹

References

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