

Optimizing Post-Discharge Care for Heart Failure with Preserved and Mildly Reduced Ejection Fraction Strategies to Reduce Readmissions

Webinar will begin shortly



American Heart Association.
IMPLEMENT-EF

Welcome!

Learn more: heart.org/IMPLEMENTEF



American Heart Association Team

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MBA**



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**Program Manager
IMPLEMENT-EF**

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Scan the QR code to see a map of participating sites, stay informed about upcoming educational opportunities, and insights from the initiative.

In 2025, the American Heart Association, launched a quality improvement initiative to:

- Discover current gaps and identify ideal care models in the HFpEF/HFmrEF patient journey
- Build a network of multidisciplinary team members focused on improving HFpEF/HFmrEF care
- Amplify HFpEF/HFmrEF awareness with providers and monitoring adherence to evidence-based therapies for HFpEF/HFmrEF patients in hospitals

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IMPLEMENT-EF Participating Sites

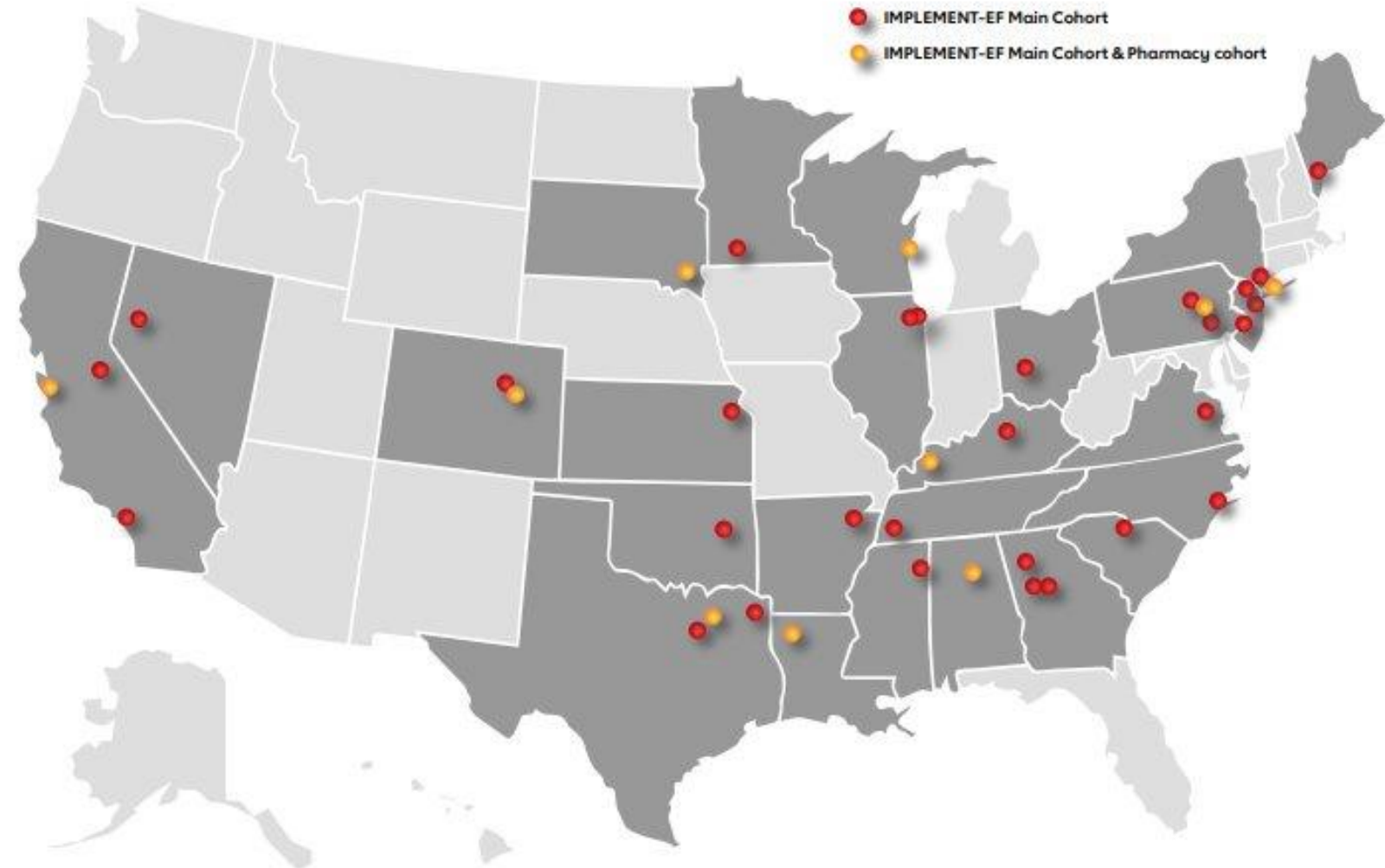
Participating Sites

- IMPLEMENT-EF Main Cohort
- IMPLEMENT-EF Main Cohort & Pharmacy cohort

1. AdventHealth Redmond
2. AdventHealth Shawnee Mission
3. Avera McKennan Hospital & University Health Center*
4. Baptist Health Paducah*
5. Baptist Health Lexington
6. Baptist Memorial Hospital - Memphis
7. Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital
8. Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center
9. Carteret Health Care
10. Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center
11. Froedtert Hospital*
12. Froedtert West Bend Hospital
13. Geisinger Medical Center
14. Hackensack Meridian JFK University Medical Center
15. Hackensack Meridian Southern Ocean Medical Center
16. Hackensack University Medical Center
17. MaineHealth Maine Medical Center Biddeford
18. Mount Sinai Health System
19. Murray County Medical Center
20. NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital
21. North Mississippi Medical Center
22. Northwestern Medicine Palos Hospital
23. NYC Health + Hospitals / Elmhurst*
24. Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport*
25. Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health
26. Penn State Health Milton S. Eshelman Medical Center*
27. Renown Regional Medical Center
28. Saint Francis Hospital Muskogee
29. Stanford Health Care*
30. Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento
31. Texas Health Fort Worth*
32. Titus Regional Medical Center
33. UCHHealth - Memorial Hospital Central
34. UCHHealth University of Colorado Hospital*
35. UI Health
36. University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital*
37. University of California Irvine Medical Center
38. University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
39. WellStar Kennestone Regional Hospital
40. WellStar Paulding Hospital

- Rome, GA
- Shawnee Mission, KS
- Sioux Falls, SD
- Paducah, KY
- Lexington, KY
- Memphis, TN
- Richmond, VA
- Hartsville, SC
- Morehead City, NC
- Dayton, OH
- Milwaukee, WI
- West Bend, WI
- Danville, PA
- Edison, NJ
- Manahawkin, NJ
- Hackensack, NJ
- Biddeford, ME
- New York, NY
- Slayton, MN
- Jonesboro, AR
- Tupelo, MS
- Palos Heights, IL
- Elmhurst, NY
- Shreveport, LA
- Lancaster, PA
- Hershey, PA
- Reno, NV
- Muskogee, OK
- Stanford, CA
- Sacramento, CA
- Fort Worth, TX
- Mount Pleasant, TX
- Colorado Springs, CO
- Aurora, CO
- Chicago, IL
- Birmingham, AL
- Orange, CA
- Dallas, TX
- Marietta, GA
- Hiram, GA

*Participating in the Pharmacy cohort





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Disclaimer

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**Amanda Riddle, MSN, APRN, AGACNP-BC,
CCRN**

Heart Failure Coordinator
Texas Health Ft. Worth Hospital – Ft. Worth, TX

No Disclosures



May 13, 2026

IMPLEMENT EF Post-Discharge Needs

Amanda Riddle, MSN, APRN, AGACNP-BC, CCRN



Texas Health
Harris Methodist Hospital®
FORT WORTH

Our faith-based, nonprofit health system cares for more patients in North Texas than any other provider



29,000+
EMPLOYEES

400+
points of access

Across
sixteen
counties

Home to 8M
North Texans

Hospitals

29 HOSPITAL LOCATIONS

4,390 Licensed Hospital Beds

- 6,400+ Physicians with Active Medical Staff Privileges
- Acute Care, Short Stay, Rehabilitation & Transitional Care

Physicians Group

450+ Primary Care Providers
in 130 Locations

380+ SPECIALISTS
IN 80 LOCATIONS

310+ Hospitalists and Post-Acute Providers

Outpatient & Community Access

26 Breeze Urgent Care Centers and growing

35 SURGERY CENTERS

- 25+ Imaging Centers
- Employer Clinics
- Home Health Care
- Hospice Care
- Quick Care Video Visits
- Primary Care Video Visits

Clinically Integrated Network

Formed by Texas Health Resources and UT Southwestern Medical Center

PHYSICIAN NETWORK

HOSPITAL NETWORK

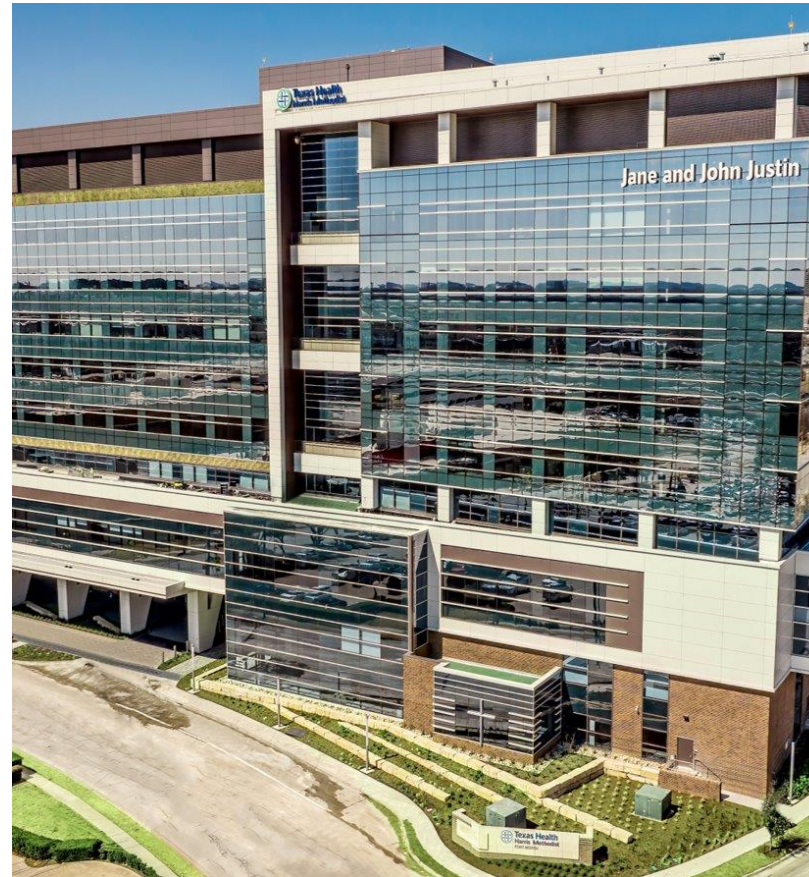
- Population Health Services
- Health Insurance Plan

Texas Health Fort Worth

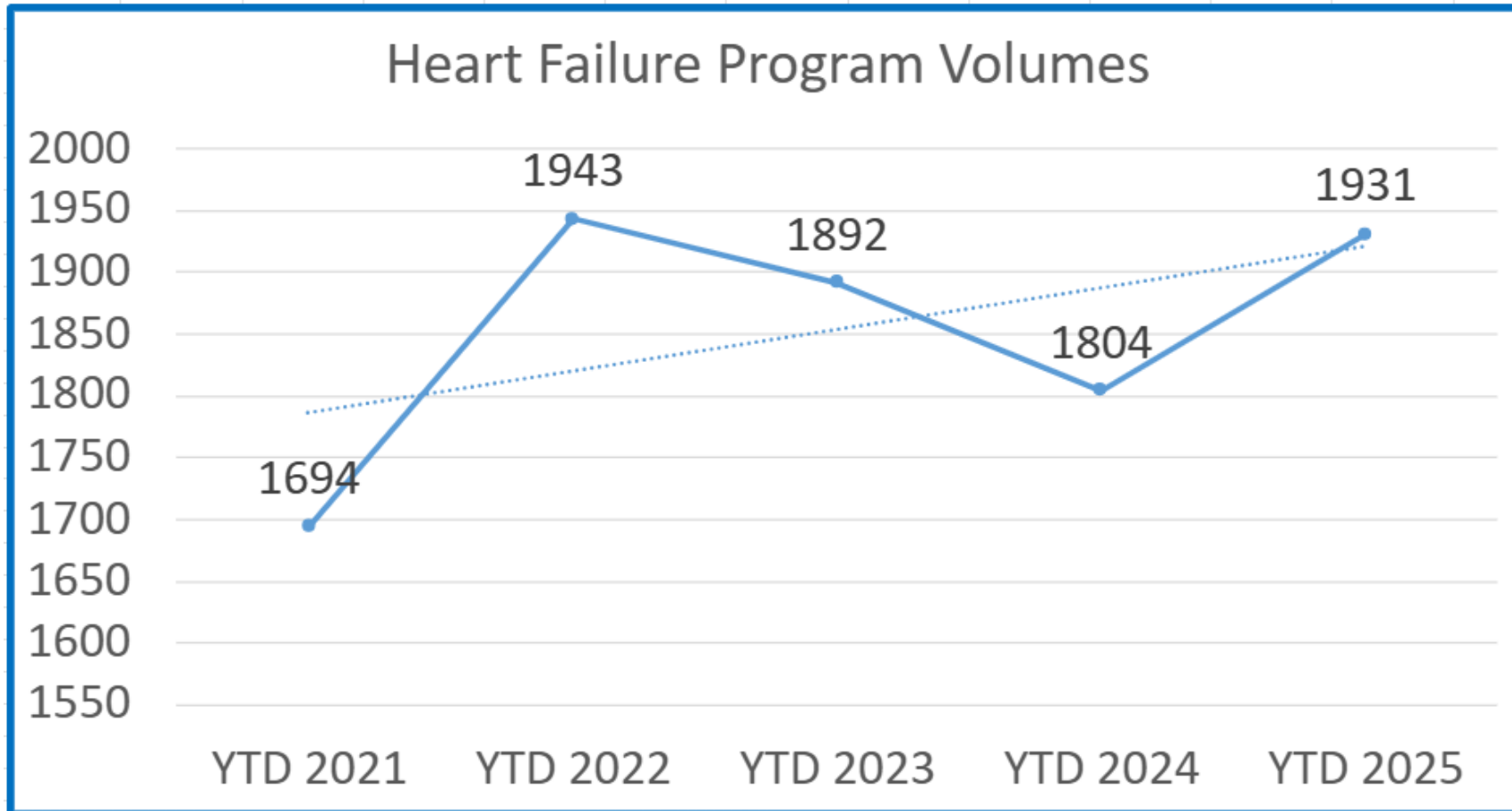
- 851 In-patient beds
- 100 ED beds
- Dedicated Cardiac Tower 100 beds
 - CV ICU, CV Step down and 2 Med Surg Tele

2024 Statistics

- Emergency Visits 159,426
- Inpatient Volume 42,641
- Outpatient Volume 202,087
- Observation Patients 4,820
- Overall Hospital LOS (IP) 5.83



Programmatic Growth

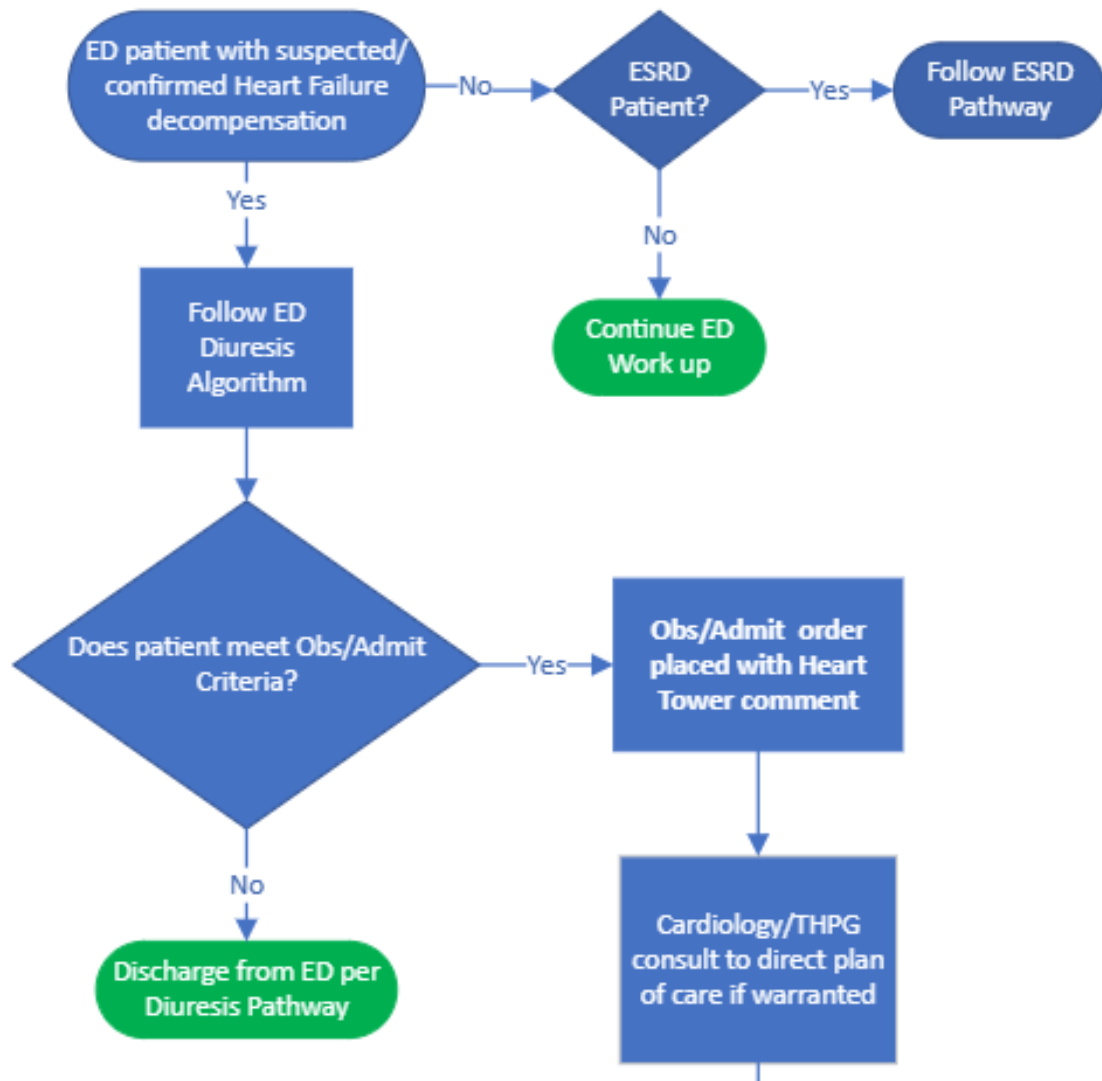


From Risk to Action in HFpEF and HFmrEF

- High comorbidity burdens
 - Hypertension
 - Obesity
 - Type 2 DM
 - CKD
 - A Fib
 - PH
 - Ischemic heart disease
- Challenge
 - Address chronic comorbidities during hospitalization by strengthening PCP coordination
- Possible solutions
 - Improved patient education?
 - PCP outreach?

Drivers of Vulnerability First 30 days

- Patient related factors
 - SDOH Assessments
 - Barrier- subjective often from patient perspective
- Disease related factors
 - Barriers- Limited expertise, resources, performance metric driven care
- Comorbidities
 - Barriers- need for specialist assistance
- System related factors
 - Tailor patient resources with supportive services to meet needs
- Triggers for early readmission
 - Barriers- clinical blind spots leading to preventable readmissions



Heart Failure Guideline



Continued

Heart Failure
Guideline



Follow In-patient Heart
Failure Pathway

Consider Advanced
Heart Failure Consult
for I NEED HELP
Criteria

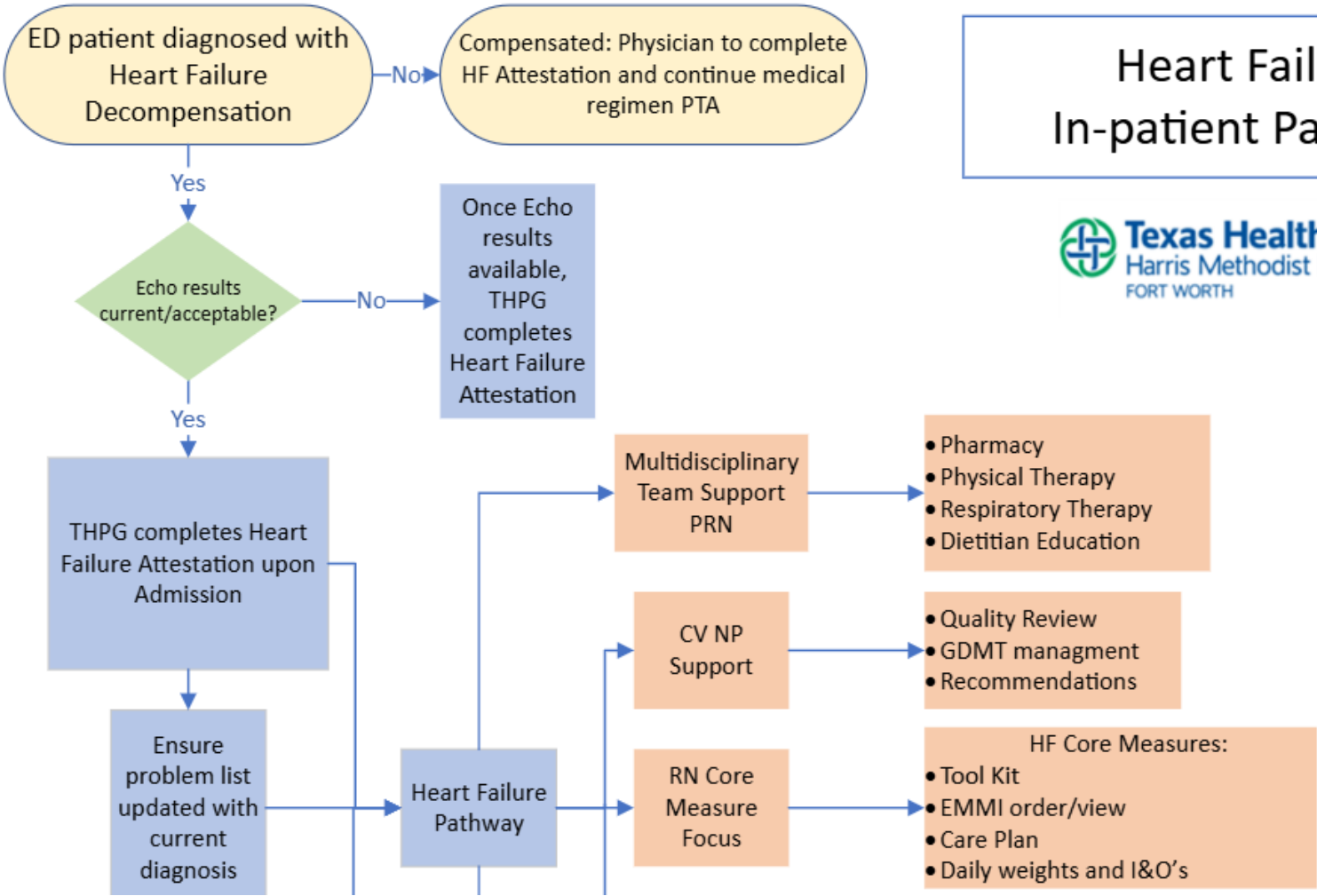
- Markers of Advanced Heart Failure**
- I- Possible need for inotropes
 - N- NYHA Class III/IV, elevated BNP despite treatment
 - E- End organ dysfunction (renal, liver), hyponatremia
 - E- EF \leq 30%
 - D- Defibrillator shocks
 - H- Hospitalization >1 in the last year despite appropriate therapy
 - E- Edema despite escalating diuretics
 - L- Low systolic BP \leq 90, high heart rate
 - P- Poor tolerance to beta blockers, ACEi, ARB, ARNi

- DC Actions**
- Schedule 7 day follow up appointment
 - CTM care coordination
 - Provide patient education resources
 - Scale given if needed
 - GDMT addressed per guidelines

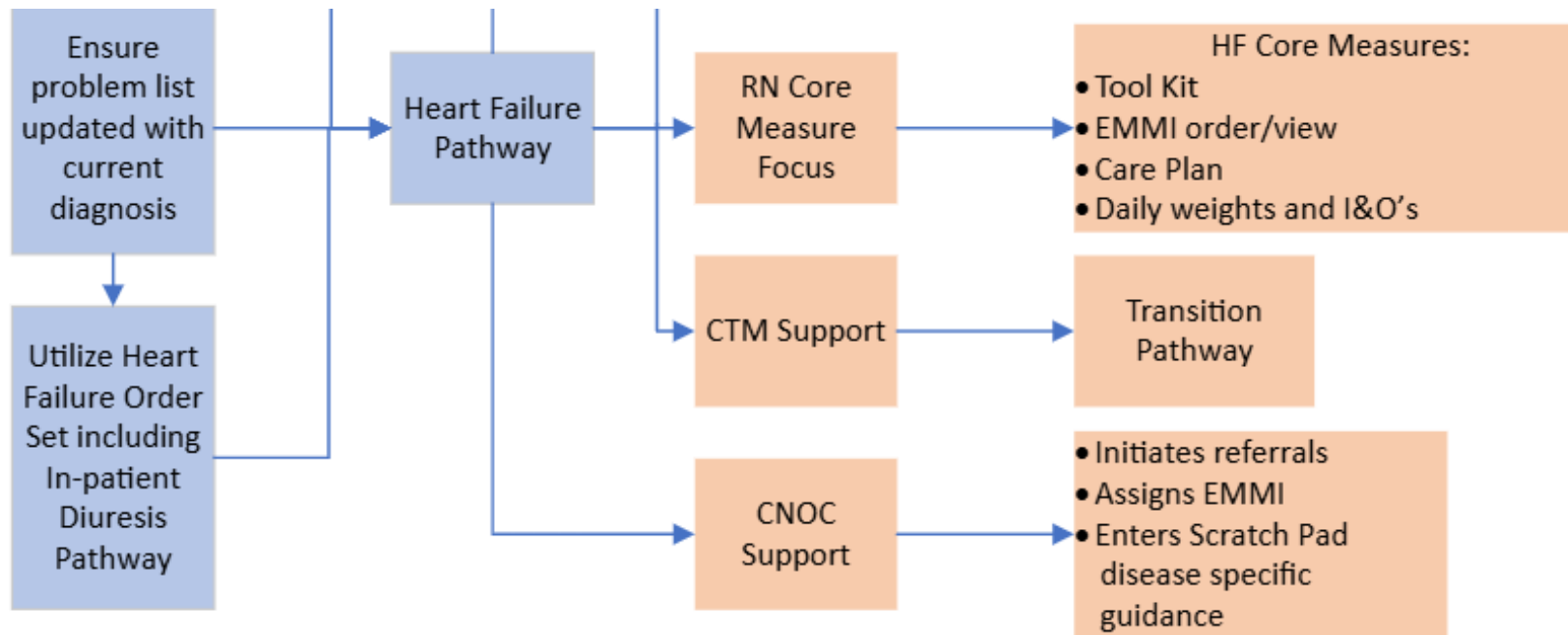
Appropriate for
Discharge?

Continue to
follow ED and
In-patient
Diuresis
Pathway

Heart Failure In-patient Pathway



Heart Failure In-patient Pathway



Readmission Avoidance Program

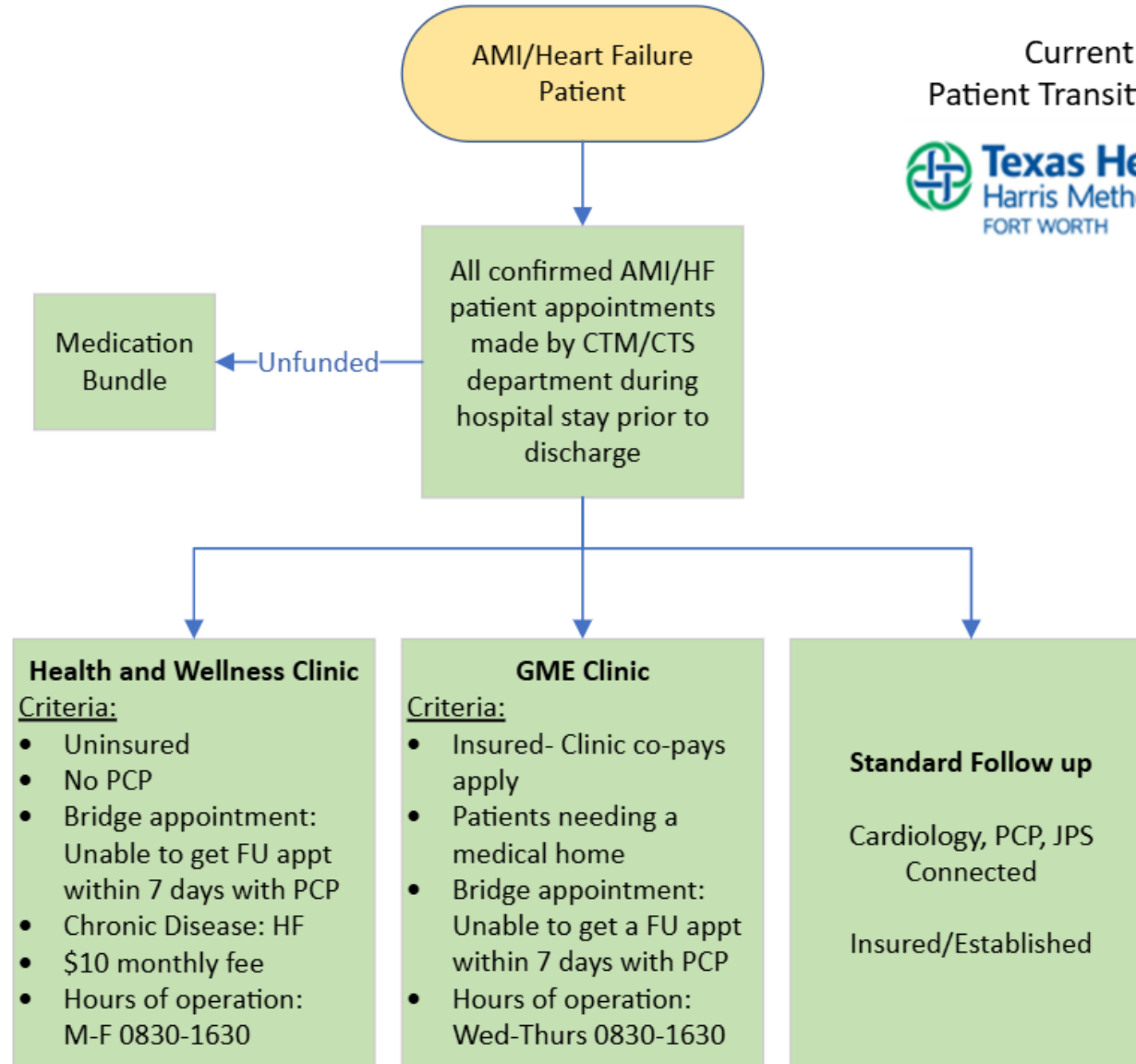
- Patient identified focus groups
 - MI, HF, COPD, PNA, CABG, Total Hip/Knee
- Goals
 - Reduce unplanned readmissions
 - Streamline workflows and bridge discharge gaps
 - Out-patient CTM phone call once a week for 30 days
- Risk Unplanned Readmit (RUR) score
- Facilitate post-discharge care needs
- EPIC row visible for team
 - Identified and enrolled

High:	24 - 100
Moderate:	16 - 23
Low:	9 - 15
Mild:	0 - 8

Multidisciplinary Readmission Avoidance

- Utilization of risk stratification in ED
 - EHMRG Risk Score
- Diuresis Algorithm
- Care Transition Specialist role
 - Removes transitional barriers post-discharge
 - Isolates best/practical follow up for patient scenario
 - Offers resources based on clinical need

Current State
Patient Transition Pathway



Thank you!





Gretchen Cunanan, RN, BSN, CHFNP

Heart Failure Navigator

Northwestern Medicine Palos Hospital – Palos Heights, IL

No Disclosures



Kristen Juarez, MSN, RN

Heart Failure Navigator

Northwestern Medicine Palos Hospital – Palos Heights, IL

No Disclosures





Optimizing Post Discharge Care for HFpEF/HFmrEF: Strategies to Reduce Readmissions

Presented By:

Northwestern Medicine Heart Failure Nurse Navigators

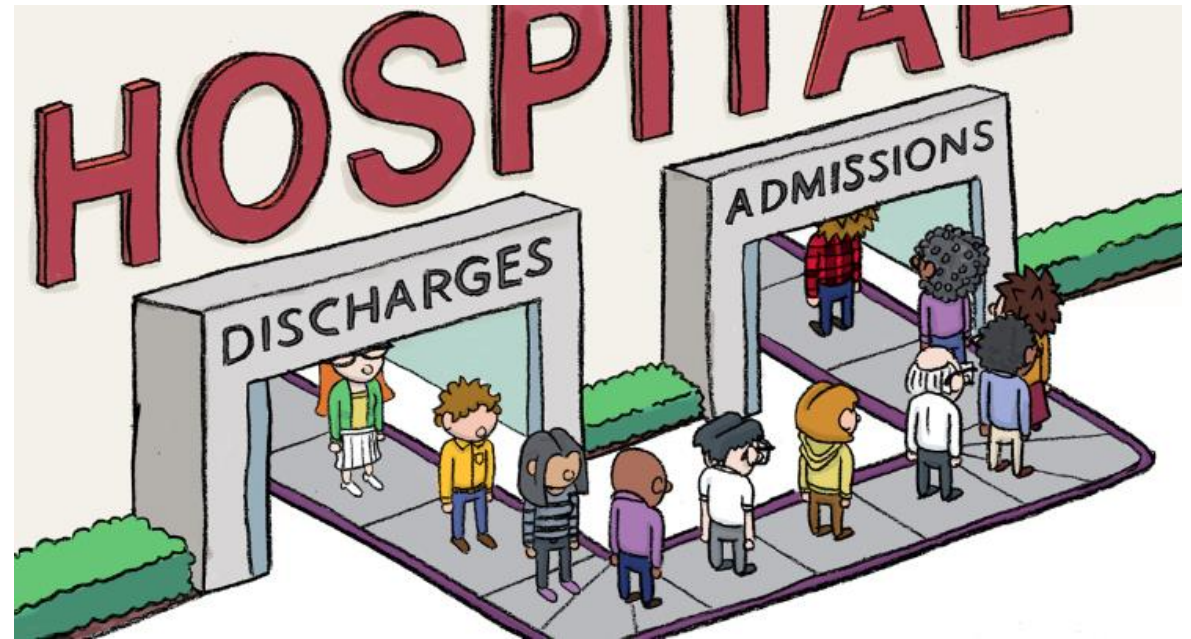
Gretchen Cunanan, BSN, RN, CHFNP

Kristen Juarez, MSN, RN, CV-BC



Common Reasons for Readmissions

- Lack of compliance with medications
- Lack of compliance with dietary recommendations
- Lack of understanding of disease process/progression
- Lack of affordable medications
- Lack of clinical Inertia
- Inadequate diuresis or discharge appropriateness
- Inadequate follow up
- Poorly controlled co-morbidities
- Uncertainty about when to contact a health care professional vs returning to ED



Patient Identification

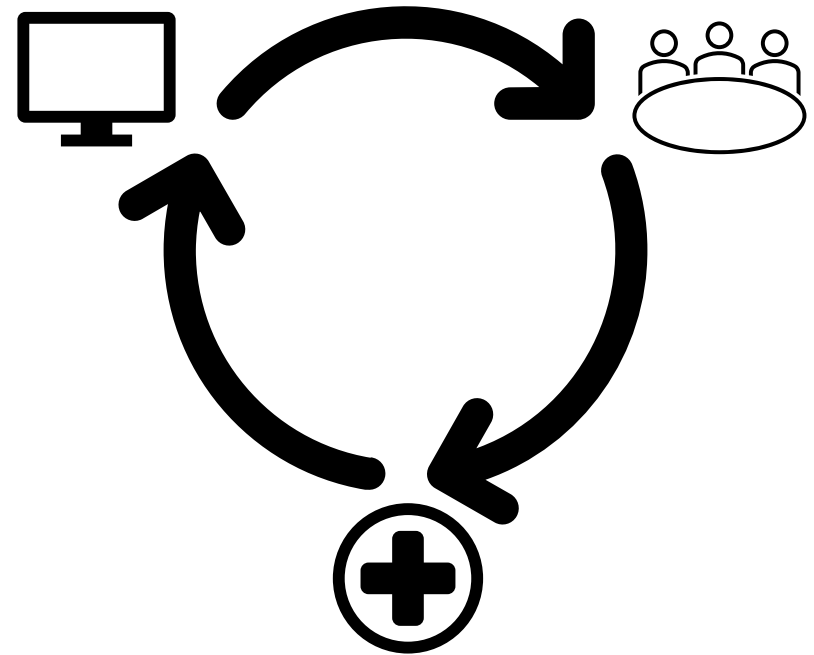
HF Navigator consult through manual chart review and MD consult

Epic Report

Heart Success Unit

Heart failure rounds (hospitalists, HF APP, SW, Pharmacist, Clinical Coordinator, Unit Manager, HF Navigator)

Coordinating care through discharge- >CHF clinic, Cardiology office



Heart Failure Care Coordination

- **Ambulatory care coordination- Northwestern PCP**
 - Automatic service for pts w/ NM PCP
 - 4–6-month follow-up, minimum monthly calls
- **Multidisciplinary team (RN, SW, PharmD)**
- **Goal: Manage healthcare needs**
 - Education to manage symptoms and disease
 - Connection to community resources
 - Caregiver support
 - Connected care across settings: HHC and/or SNF

Smart Data Element

Next Steps

- Please add the dot phrase **.HFENROLL** to your note templates

HFENROLL: Enrolled ▾

Transitional Care Management

Future Appointments

Date	Time	Provider	Department	Center
1/2/2026	9:20 AM	O'Malley, Chelsea K., APRN, CNP	PHHLWC	Palos80thAv
2/19/2026	1:40 PM	Afana, Majed, MD	PHCARDIO	Palos80thAv

TCM

Transitional Care Management (TCM):

Date: 12/26/25

Program of Outreach: Primary Care

Reason for TCM: Inpatient Stay

Inpatient Admission Date: 12/18/25

Inpatient Discharge Date: 12/22/25

Hospital: PALOS HOSPITAL IP

Discharge Disposition: Home or Self Care

Discharge Diagnosis: dyspnea, near syncope, dizziness, palpitations,

Call Start Time: 12/26/2025 1:47 PM

Outreach Number: 1st Call

1st Call Status: Completed Call

HIPAA Statement: Spoke to patient or patient support (spouse, relative, significant other, etc.), HIPAA verified. Explained role and purpose for the call. Introduced program.: Yes

How are you feeling since your discharge?: About the same

Do you have any questions about the purpose or side effects of any medications that you were prescribed during your visit? TCM: No

Medication Reconciliation: Completed

Medical Care Follow Up:

Medical Care Follow Up: PCP follow up NOT scheduled

Condition Knowledge/Education Provided:

Discharge Instructions Reviewed?: Yes

Do you have any questions regarding your discharge instructions and taking care of yourself at home? Yes

Discharge Instructions: Patient/patient support (spouse, relative, significant other, etc.) verbalized understanding?: No

Functional Status/Abilities:

Functional Status/Abilities: Walker, Cane

Adequacy of Support System:

Living Situation Stable?: Yes (Comment: lives alone - apartment 17 stairs to go up)

Barriers/Flags:

Barriers/Flags: Clinical, Functional

Community Resources:

Community Resources in Place?: No

Community Resources Needed?: No

Current Services in Place or Referred During Call: Refused to get home therapy

Patient Concerns:

Does patient have additional clinical or social questions/concerns?: No

Do you have any concerns or suggestions for improvement?: No

Is there anyone that you would like to recognize for going above and beyond?: No

Call End Time: 12/26/2025 2:05 PM

Transitional Care Management Complete?: Yes

An interdisciplinary approach to care that promotes health and coordination through the care continuum for the diverse patient populations we serve

Ambulatory Care Coordination

Clinician driven support (Nurse + Social Work)

For patient referrals: REF250 order in Epic

For general inquiries: nmcarecoordination@nm.org

Programs

- Care Coordination
- Complex Care Coordination
- Hi-risk pathways to care e.g.:
 - Multi-Visit Patient (MVP)
 - High Risk for Readmissions (HRR)
- Clinical pathways:
 - Diabetes Tune-up Pathway
 - HTN pathway (Nuna pilot)

Goals

- Develop patient centered goals
- Empower successful self-management
- Provide proactive care by partnering with primary care and other health professionals
- Improve health outcomes

Eligibility

- Patients attributed to an NMPN primary care physician, with one or more of the following:
- High-risk chronic disease
 - Barriers to care (medical and/or psychosocial)
 - Enrolled in a value-based contract

Outreach

Interdisciplinary Support (Community Health Worker, Social Work, Nurse)

Services are automatic – no referral needed

*Epic Pools: **NM Outreach** & **NM Outreach - TOC***

For general inquiries: nmoutreachteam@nm.org

Programs

- Transitions of Care (TOC) Support
- Social Drivers of Health (SDOH) Follow-Up
- Care Gap Closure (Diabetes, Annual Wellness Campaigns)

Goals

- Address short term clinical and social needs
- Remove barriers to care and recovery
- Promote timely, equitable, and patient centered care
- Reduce administrative burden in clinics

Eligibility

TOC – enables TCM billing

- Inpatient or observation discharge home with an NM PCP and VBC contract and moderate or high risk

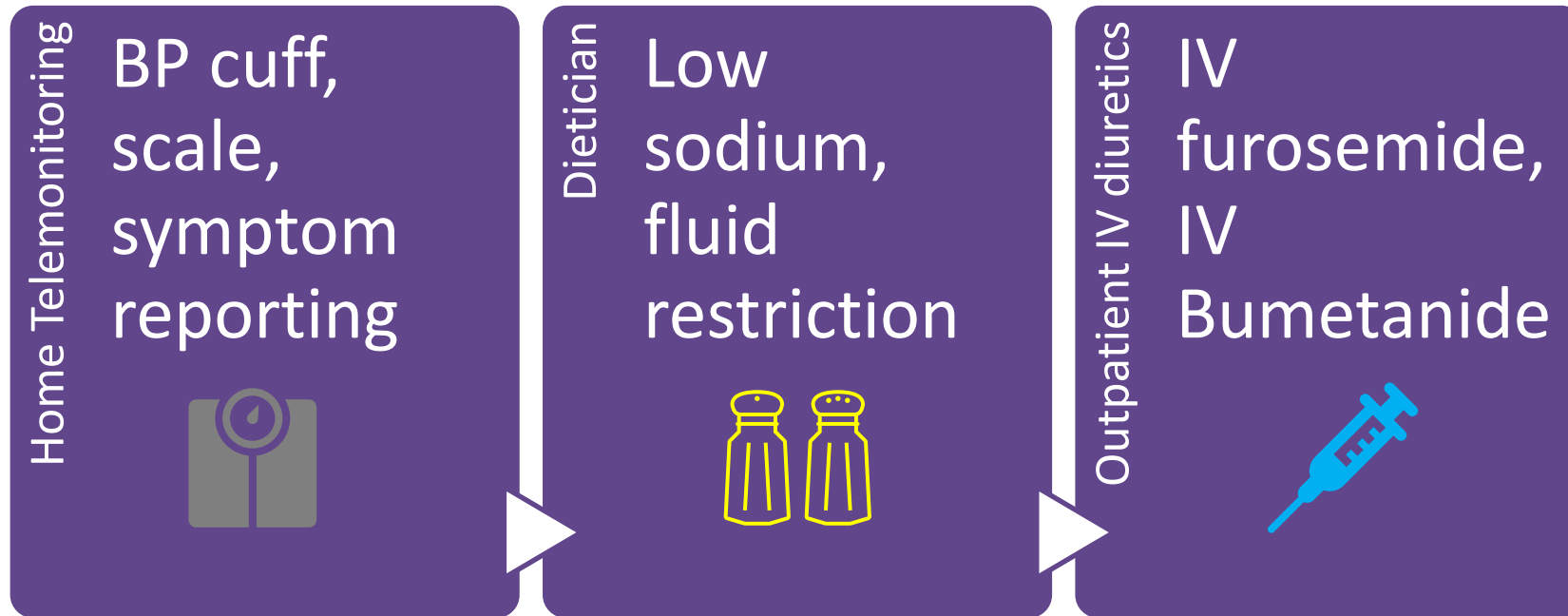
SDOH

- Patients with positive SDOH screen (new and annual appointments)

Care Reconnection Programs

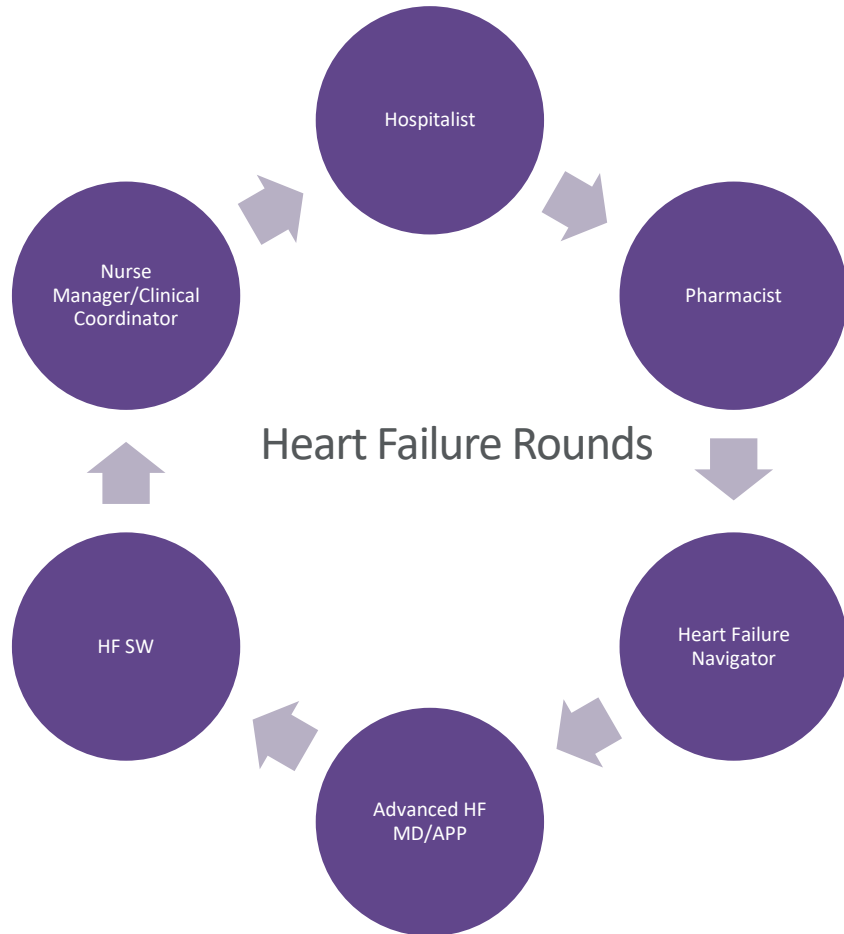
- Patients needing extra support reconnecting to care

Home Health



Advanced Heart Failure Team

South Suburbs



Lauren A. Farina, MD



Natalie Stella APRN

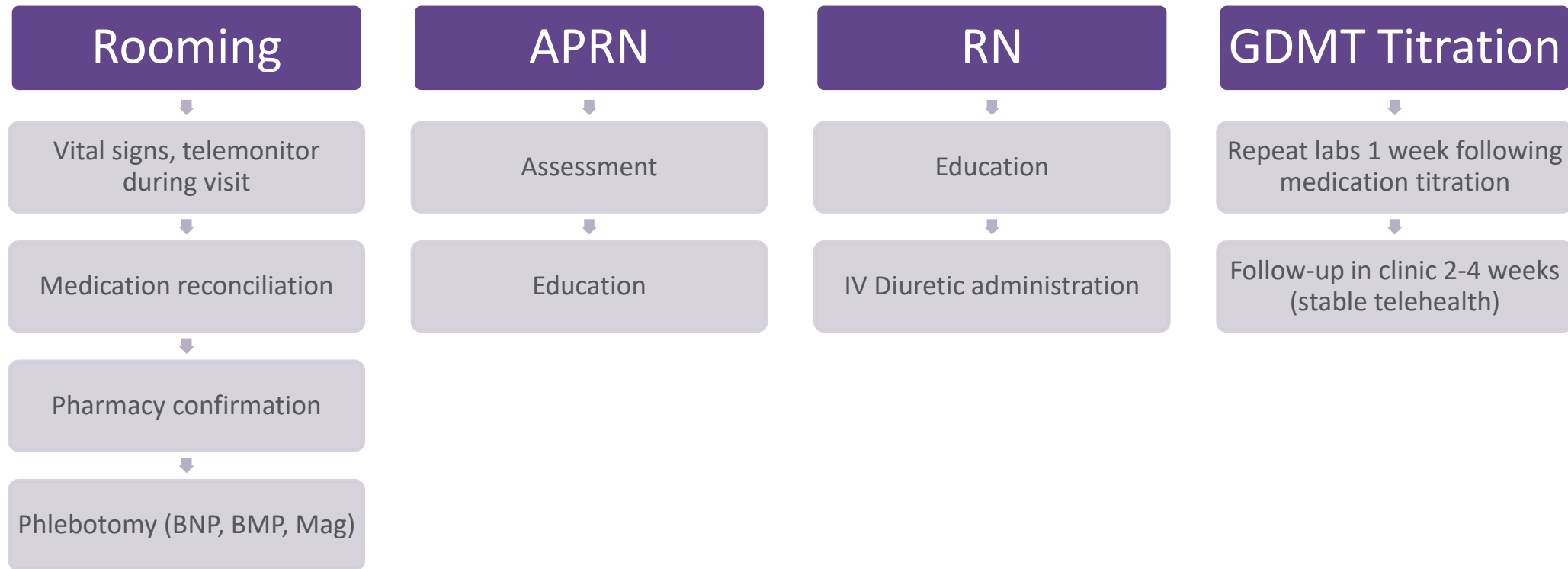


Jonathan N. Hourmozdi, MD

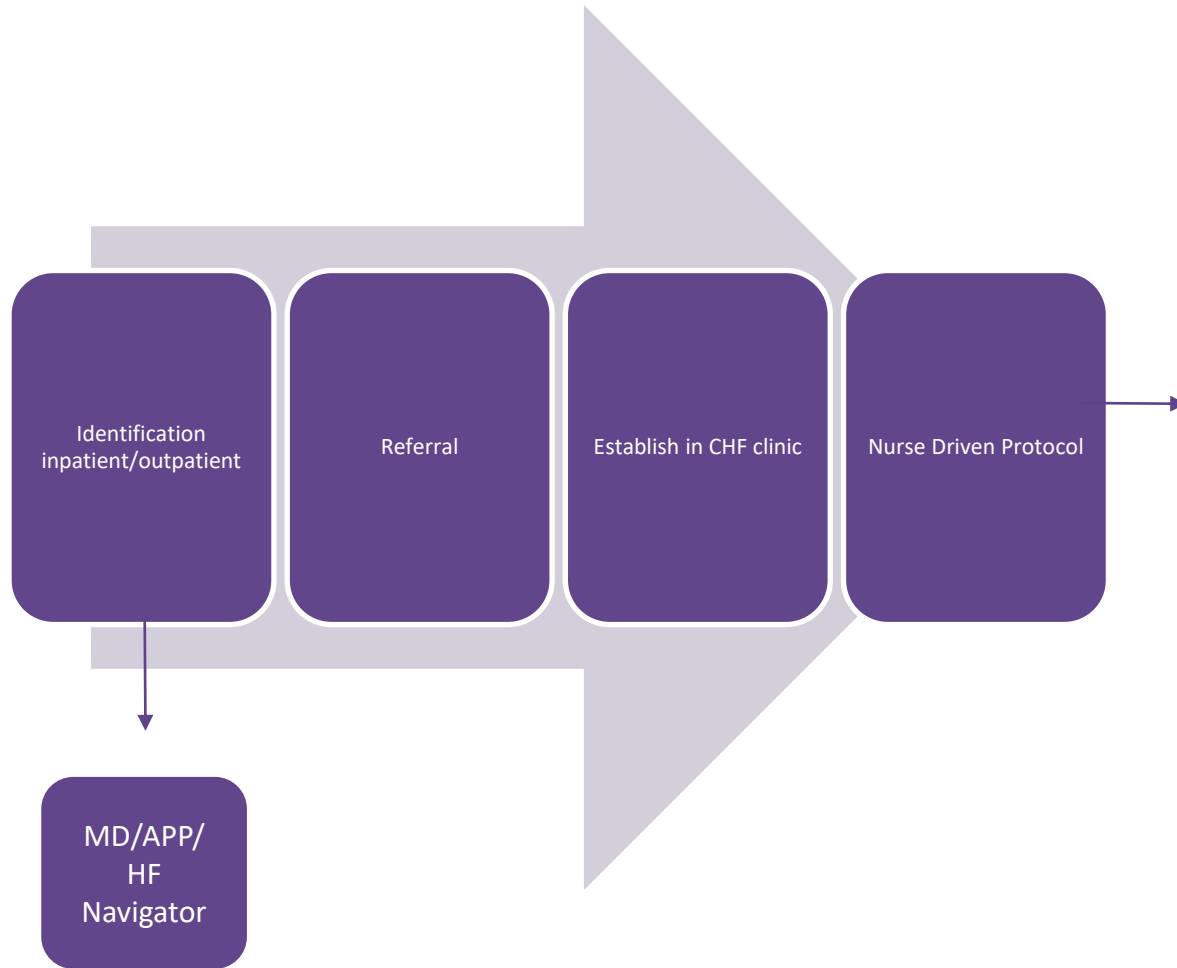
- ❖ Pharmacy Technician
 - Assist with PA's, benefits investigation
- ❖ Outpatient Pharmacist

Heart Failure Clinic

- Advanced Practice Providers and HF nurses
- Referral based clinic- Hospital based
- Must be established with a Cardiologist



Implantable PA Pressure Sensor



Nurse Driven Diuretic Protocol

- PAD Goal AND threshold to be established post-implant by APN or MD within 1-2 weeks.
- If PAD is trending >2 points above threshold for 2 or more days, diuretics increased by RN until PAD trends down.

Bumetanide : increase by 1-2 mg daily x2-3 days

Furosemide: increase by 20-40 mg x2-3 days

Torsemide: increase by 10-20 mg x2-3 days

Metolazone: must be reviewed by provider

Furoscix (furosemide infusion): must be reviewed by provider

- If PAD does not trend down within 3 days of above interventions, review with provider for further instruction and ensure there is a HFC appt within 3-5 days.
- If patient has not had BMP drawn within 60 days, review with provider.

South Region CKM Clinic

- Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute
- Inception: March 2023
- Goal: Provide patients with cardiovascular-kidney-metabolic syndrome a personalized multidisciplinary care experience focused on lifestyle modifications and guideline-directed management of diabetes and concomitant heart disease.
- Patient Population: Internal cardiology and vascular clinic referrals with a primary focus on patients with CKM syndrome 2,3, and 4



Julie E. Vanourek, APRN



Aryelle L. Schicht, APRN



Advanced Practice Provider-Led Clinic Model

- CKM APRNs
- Pharm D/Pharmacy Tech
- Program Nurse Coordinator
- Primary Cardiologist
- Social Worker
- CKM Clinic Nurse Navigator

Multidisciplinary Collaboration

- Primary Care Physician
- Endocrinology, Hepatology, Nephrology
- Lifestyle Medicine

Comprehensive Approach

- MyFit RX Exercise Program, Cardiac Rehab, and Physical Therapy
- Diabetes Educator or Dietician
- OSA screening and smoking cessation assistance
- MASLD Screening
- KDIGO Heat Map Screening

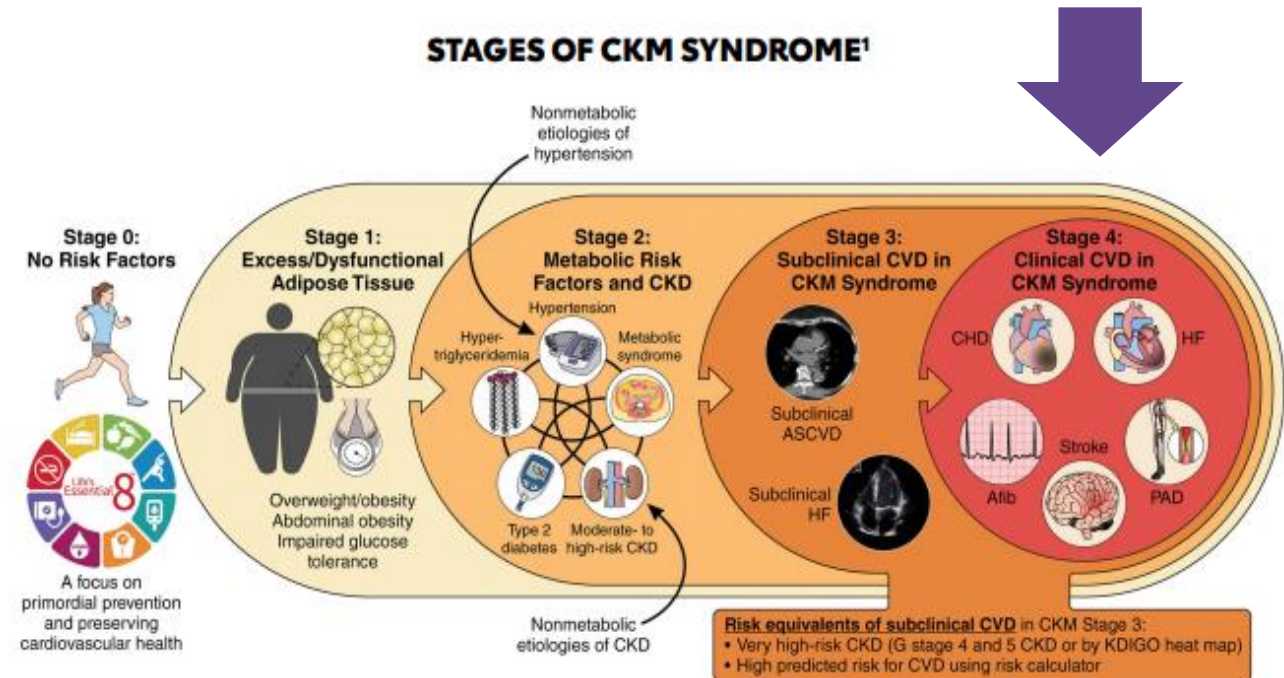
Referral to CKM Clinic

- A Relationship Built on Collaboration

Heart Failure Clinic Referral Criteria

- Stage 2, 3, or 4 CKM
- T2DM
- HFpEF BMI >30* regardless of diabetes
- Moderate to Severe OSA
- MASH/MASLD

*Insurance coverage and cost are the main barriers to GLP-1 access. New CMS programs (e.g., BALANCE Model) aim to improve affordability and availability.



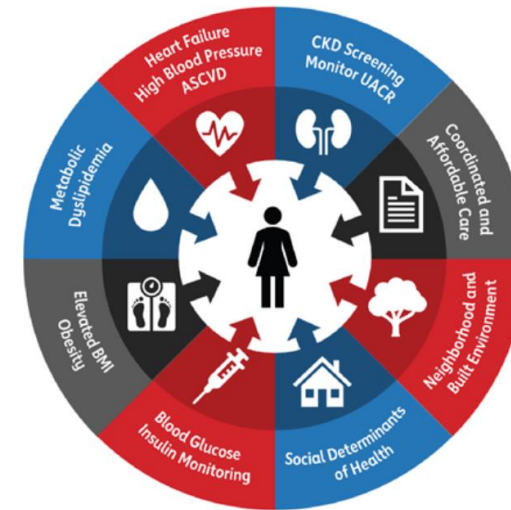
Improving the Heart Failure Patient Experience

- A Relationship Built on Collaboration

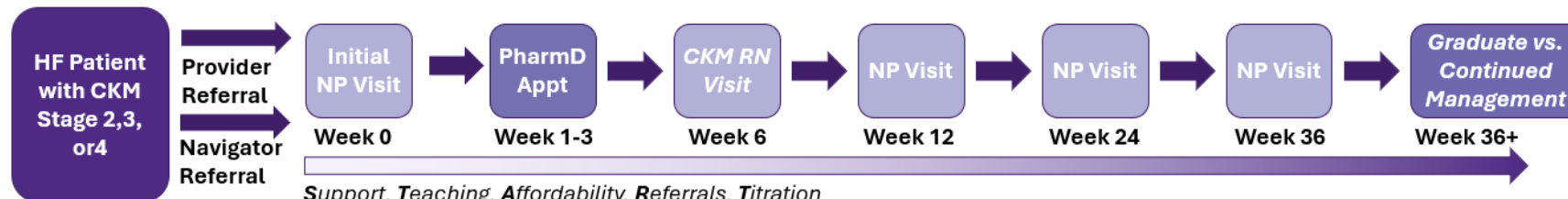
- **CKM APP** visits allows for dedicated patient time focused on CKM related patient education, medication optimization, and personalized SMART goal setting
- **CKM PharmD** and pharmacy technician assists with improved medication adherence and cost affordability
- **CKM RN** Visits assist with symptom management, injection education, and clinic standard of care
- **CKM Navigator** assists with care coordination and outcomes management
- **Social Worker** assists with addressing SDOH gaps



American Heart Association.
Cardiovascular-Kidney-Metabolic Health Initiative™



Ndumele, C.E. et al. Cardiovascular-Kidney-Metabolic Health: A Presidential Advisory from the American Heart Association



Support, Teaching, Affordability, Referrals, Titration
Titration of CKM meds (SGLT2i, GLP1RA), HF meds, lipid meds, HTN meds
Referrals to Obesity Management, Nutritionist, Exercise, Sleep Medicine

Early Outcomes

- Clinically and statistically significant reductions in BMI, HgbA1c, systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, triglycerides, and LDL cholesterol were noted
- In the 365 days prior to enrollment, 77 hospitalizations occurred in the cohort: during the mean time in the program of 327 days, there were 24 hospitalizations (p<0.0001), representing an annualized reduction in hospitalizations by 65.2%

Characteristic	Baseline Value	Graduated or > 180 Enrolled Value
BMI (kg/m²)	40.46 ± 9.37	37.32 ± 8.75 (p<0.0001)
HgbA1c (%)	7.02±1.45	6.23±0.9 (p<0.0001)
Systolic BP	122±15	117±14 (p<0.01)
Total Cholesterol (mg/dl)	149±42	130±34 (p<0.0001)
LDL Cholesterol (mg/dl)	79.2±35.2	65.1 ±25.8 (p<0.0001)
Triglycerides (mg/dl)	173.9±178.9	132±76.6 (p<0.0004)
GLP1RA Use (%)	26 (18%)	144 (90%)
SGLT2i Use (%)	59 (37%)	96 (60%)
ARNI Use (%)	44 (28%)	57 (36%)

Data reflective of graduate CKM patients or patients enrolled for >180 days between March 2024 and July 2025

Opportunities & Challenges

Challenges

- Independent providers
- Resource gaps
- Variation in practice
- Disconnected systems
EMR

Opportunities- Monthly HF meeting

- SDOH screening at 2/4-
week call
- OPA- MRA/SGLT2i
- BMP order at discharge
after MRA initiation



Questions?





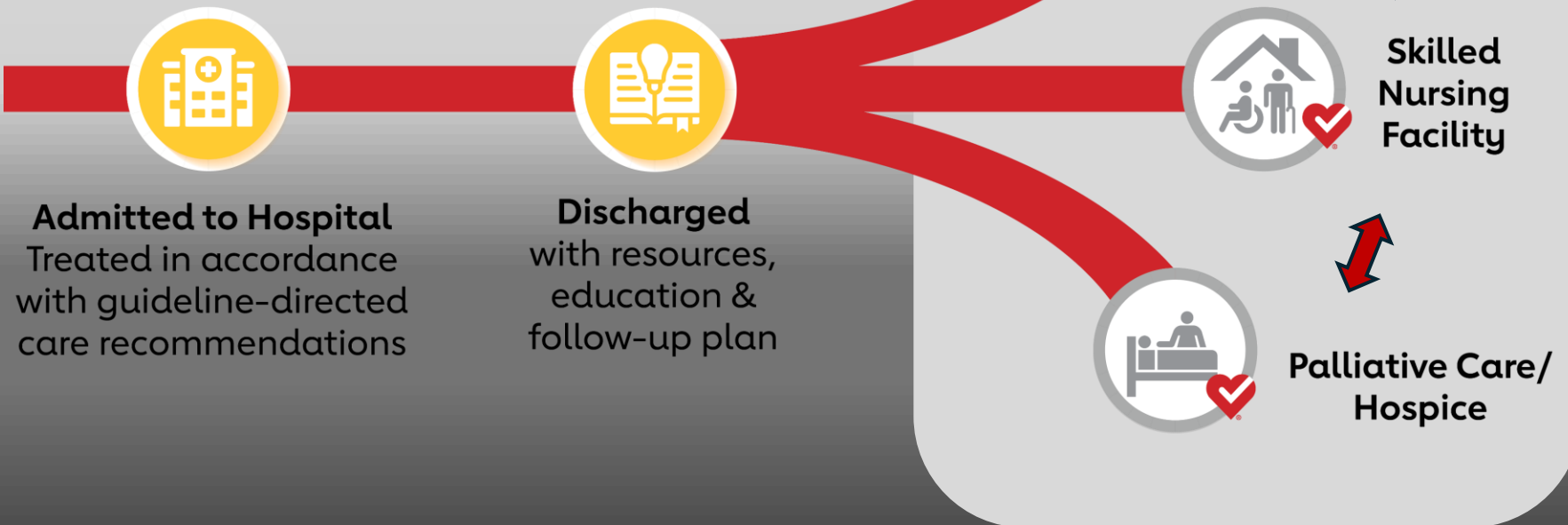
Thank You.

For any questions, please reach out to IMPLEMENT.EF@heart.org

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Heart Failure



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