

Physician MEMO

To | NICS, Cardiologist, Internal Medicine, Family Practice, & Pulmonologist

From | Linda Hogan, RN MSN Clinical Practice Manager

Date | August 26, 2011

Re | New Follow-up Appointment Process

HEART FAILURE NEW FOLLOW-UP APPOINTMENT PROCESS

What Is The Main Problem?

- In order to maintain compliance with our current Advanced Heart Failure Certification, a new quality measure has been added that will require all heart failure patients to have a follow up appointment with their primary care physician within 7 days of discharge.

What Do We Need To Do About It?

- Physician discharge instructions must include a follow up appointment within 7 days of discharge for all heart failure patients.
- The follow up appointment must be made prior to the patient's discharge.
- The patient must have the appointment information prior to leaving the hospital.
- An education plan and process for accomplishing this new measure is currently under development and will be communicated within the next few weeks.

Why Is It Important?

- It is important to ensure that the patient receives appropriate and timely follow up care with their primary care physician upon discharge.
- It is important to remain compliant with the new quality measures required for our Advanced Heart Failure Certification.

Please contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.