

Clinical Scenario Heart Failure



Scenario:

87-year-old female, w/ PMH of CAD, s/p CABG and pacemaker, presented to the ED for sudden onset SOB that began a few hours prior to presentation.

Initial vital signs:

O2 sat 70% on 2L NC BP 230/114, HR 87, RR 31

CXR: cardiac enlargement w/ multifocal bilateral hazy pulmonary opacities representing decompensated CHF and pulmonary edema versus PNA.

Exam: Tachypnea, increased work of breathing, prolonged exhalation and expiratory wheezes.

ED Course:

Started on BiPAP to keep O2 above 90%. IV Solumedrol, IV Lasix, Nitropaste, Foley catheter

At Time of Decision:

Medical Hx: CHF, obesity

Vital Signs: BP 132/68, RR 22, O² 96% on BiPAP

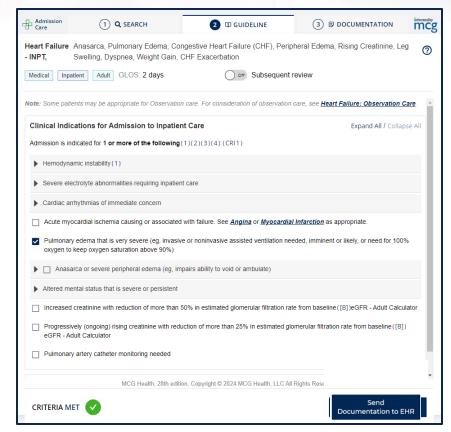
EKG: HR 100-120s

Labs: WNL, Troponin negative x1

Documented Principal Problem: CHF

Recommended Workflow

- C- Consider appropriate care setting
 - Hospitalization
- A- Ask what the principal diagnosis is?
 - Heart Failure
- R- Review INPT guideline first, then OBS
 - INPT Criteria: MET
- E- Enter bed status / level of care order
 - Inpatient
- D- Document criteria in medical record



Teaching Points:

- If the patient has other clinically active comorbidities with Heart Failure, select Multiple Condition Management (MCM) Guidelines using Heart Failure as the principal diagnosis paired with the comorbid condition that require inpatient care (ie Heart Failure with A-Fib). Using MCM will support an extended length of stay
- OBS would be appropriate if patient responded quickly to treatment.
 - For example: labs normal, O² needs improving
- Many criteria under the INPT guideline require a stay in OBS status before converting to INPT.



