

Appendix 3A: Diagnostic criteria for CHF – Inclusion and Exclusion

Potential diagnostic criteria for identifying and validating congestive heart failure patients from hospital discharge administrative data.

In order to assemble an appropriate cohort of CHF patients, administrative and clinical criteria are required. The following inclusion and exclusion criteria utilize administrative data to select a sample of heart failure discharges. The exclusion criteria listed have been previously used in “Cardiovascular Health and Services in Ontario: An ICES Atlas”.³ Previous heart failure admissions in the past 3 years (“washout” period) were excluded to obtain a cohort that had been relatively free of prior CHF hospitalizations (i.e., new CHF patients).

INCLUSION CRITERIA (ADMINISTRATIVE DATA)	
1.0	Most responsible \pm primary/secondary diagnosis of heart failure (ICD-9 428.x)

EXCLUSION CRITERIA	
1.0	Not admitted to an acute care hospital
2.0	Age <20 or >105
3.0	Invalid health card number
4.0	Transferred from another acute care facility
5.0	CHF coded as in-hospital complication
6.0	CHF admission within past 3 years

³ Naylor CD, Slaughter PM (eds). Cardiovascular Health and Services in Ontario: An ICES Atlas. Toronto: Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences. 1999.