Top Ten Things To Know
Staffing Survey Results from Heart Failure and Transplant Centers

1. Heart failure (HF) is a leading cause of hospitalization and death in the United States and Europe.

2. Inpatient and outpatient HF programs have been developed to deliver the evidence-based care expected by patients and monitored by third-party payers and governmental agencies. Training and clinical competence standards are also in place.

3. The survey represents online responses from members of the American College of Cardiology Foundation (ACCF), American Heart Association (AHA), and the Heart Failure Society of America (HFSA) who are interested in HF, heart transplant, or both.

4. Determining the utilization of staff in United States and international HF, mechanical circulatory support device (MCSD), and transplant programs was the purpose of this survey.

5. The advanced HF patient population is complicated, requiring complex decision-making and clinical skills for initial and long term management of these patients.

6. Additional expertise is needed when managing patients with MCSDs.

7. According to the survey, most HF centers have small- to medium-sized number of staff. Annually, 1,641 outpatient HF visits and 10 transplants represent the average practice, using more than 6 full-time equivalents.

8. Currently, there are no guidelines or recommendations that address the staffing needs for these settings.

9. Staffing guidelines are needed so sufficient qualified professionals are available for the volume of patients in these different settings.

10. The results of this survey offer an initial step toward developing such standards.

Jessup M, Albert NM, Lanfear DE, Lindenfeld J, Massie BM, Walsh MN, Zucker MJ. ACCF/AHA/HFSA 2011 survey results: current staffing profile of heart failure programs, including programs that perform heart transplant and mechanical circulatory support device implantation: a report of the ACCF Heart Failure and Transplant Committee, AHA Heart Failure and Transplantation Committee, and Heart Failure Association of America. Circ Heart Fail. 2011: published online before print April 4, 2011, 10.1161/HHF.0b013e3182186210 http://circheartfailure.ahajournals.org/cgi/reprint/HHF.0b013e3182186210

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