

*[P-303R] Assessment of quality of life in veteran patients with congestive heart failure*

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*Congestive heart failure (CHF) is a complex clinical syndrome in which the heart loses the ability to adequately perfuse the tissue and organ system. In order to better manage this condition, the Medical Advisory Panel of the Veterans Health Administration's Pharmacy Benefits Management Strategic Health Care Group has established a treatment protocol for patients with CHF. The impact of this disease coupled with compliance to medications and co-morbid conditions on lifestyle continues to be a growing concern within our veteran population. The purpose of this study is 2 fold: to evaluate the correlation between the management of CHF based on established treatment guidelines and patient-assessed quality of life and to compare quality of life to co-morbid conditions and medication compliance. Data collection involved a retrospective chart review and a 21-item quality of life survey conducted by telephone. Of the 552 patient profiles reviewed, 162 met the inclusion criteria. Preliminary results indicate that 162 patients received at least one pharmacologic agent for the treatment of CHF. Sixty patients participated in the telephone survey and reported physical limitations as the greatest burden associated with CHF. Results failed to indicate a proportional relationship between quality of life scores and co-morbid conditions as well as an inverse relationship between quality of life scores and medication compliance. Hence, preliminary studies fail to support the expectation that patients will experience an improvement in quality of life when their CHF is managed in accordance with established guidelines. Final results with statistical analysis will be presented.*