



# Lighten the Load

*Improve the competence and confidence<sup>®</sup>  
of healthcare providers  
in the management of decompensated heart failure.*



**SIMSUITE<sup>®</sup>**  
MEDICAL SIMULATION CORPORATION

# Decompensated Heart Failure

Early identification and treatment of decompensated heart failure is vital to improving patient outcomes. With an emphasis on identification of risk factors, symptom management, and proper discharge planning, the SimSuite Decompensated Heart Failure Program also provides the necessary information to help prevent further episodes, thus reducing hospital readmissions. The program is based on the 2009 American Heart Association (AHA) Get With The Guidelines® Heart Failure Recognition Program and the 2010 Heart Failure Society of America Comprehensive Heart Failure Practice Guidelines. The program is authored by William Abraham, MD, FACP, FACC.

## Web-based Course

The SimSuite Decompensated Heart Failure Web Course is designed to educate participants on the management of patients experiencing acute decompensated heart failure. This course is designed for physicians, nurses, and technologists working in the ED, medical/surgical units, and critical care. This course may be completed on its own, and also prepares providers for the Decompensated Heart Failure Simulation Workshop. 3.0 CE

## Simulation Workshop

The SimSuite Decompensated Heart Failure Program Simulation Workshop is led by an MSC Clinical Educator or a hospital-based educator. The workshop includes a didactic review of the AHA guidelines and simulation training using a Laerdal SimMan®. Simulation scenarios allow participants to practice identifying and treating acute heart failure patients within the hospital setting in a team-based environment, improving team communication. Simulation may also improve the standardization of care, contributing to hospital-based process and quality improvement. The four case scenarios vary in level of difficulty and complexity of patient presentation. *Approximate time for completion: 3-4 hours.*

## Participants and Training Objectives

The goal of this program is increase the competence and confidence of healthcare providers in the following roles: emergency department physicians, nurses, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners; medical/surgical and intermediate care/step-down nurses; and critical care physicians, nurses, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners.

Upon completion of the program, participants should be able to:

- List current incidence and prevalence data pertaining to heart failure.
- Discuss factors that contribute to heart failure.
- Evaluate presenting signs and symptoms indicative of acute decompensated heart failure (ADHF).
- Distinguish between the New York Heart Association (NYHA) functional and American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association (ACC/AHA) classifications of heart failure.
- Interpret lab work and diagnostic testing to make a differential diagnosis.

- Apply the risk stratification of acute decompensated heart failure.
- Discuss evidence-based management of acute decompensated heart failure.
- List examples of the Hospital Quality Initiatives for best practices in the care of patients with heart failure.

## Benefits

- Documentation of staff competence and compliance
- Consistent training across all staff
- Integration into Quality Improvement Programs
- Program based on guidelines, tools, and research from:
  - ◆ AHA: Get With The Guidelines
  - ◆ Heart Failure Society of America
  - ◆ Centers for Medicare and Medicaid: Hospital Quality Initiatives
  - ◆ Hospital Quality Alliance
  - ◆ Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization

## Clinical Applicability

Heart failure is the inadequate pumping or filling of the ventricles causing backflow of blood into the lungs or insufficient blood flow to the rest of the body. The Joint Commission has found large variability in how hospitals and physicians conform to the Heart Failure Quality-of-Care Indicators and a gap in overall performance.

- Heart failure afflicts an estimated 5.7 million Americans.
- There are 670,000 new cases diagnosed each year.
- The estimated healthcare burden of heart failure in the United States for 2009 is \$37.2 billion (5.4% of total healthcare expenditures).<sup>1</sup>

Decompensated heart failure is the major contributor to the cost of heart failure care. The average decompensated heart failure case costs approximately \$27,000, and Medicare reimbursement is estimated at just over \$7,000 per case. Timely diagnosis and efficient management of acute decompensated heart failure patients can lead to significant cost savings and improvement in quality of life for heart failure patients.

References:

<sup>1</sup>[www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org)

This continuing nursing education activity was approved by the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses, Inc., an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. AORN recognized this activity as continuing education for registered nurses. This recognition did not imply that AORN or the ANCC Commission on Accreditation approved or endorsed any product included in the presentation.

*For more information, contact [HealthcareGroup@medsimulation.com](mailto:HealthcareGroup@medsimulation.com).*



**SIMSUITE®**  
MEDICAL SIMULATION CORPORATION

*Experience Through Education®*

© 2010-2012 Medical Simulation Corporation  
Rev. 1.7



Medical Simulation Corporation  
4643 S. Ulster Street, Suite 650  
Denver, Colorado 80237  
t: 303.483.2800  
[www.medsimulation.com](http://www.medsimulation.com)