



FROM EVIDENCE TO PRACTICE:

best practices for leveraging the electronic health record (EHR) to identify and treat patients with iron deficiency and heart failure

Clinical decision support (CDS) provides timely information, usually at the point of care, to help inform decisions about a patient's care.

CDS tools and systems help clinical teams by taking over some routine tasks, warning of potential problems, or providing suggestions for the clinical team and patient to consider.

These tools can be embedded within the EHR and designed, organized, and implemented among at-risk persons with heart failure to identify patients based on the diagnostic criteria for absolute (ferritin < 100) and functional (ferritin 100-300 and TSAT < 20%) iron deficiency.

CHRONIC DISEASE REGISTRIES AND REPORTS

Institution-specific electronic health records (EHRs), including Epic, may have pre-existing population health registries that identify patients with heart failure based on ICD.10 codes.

These reports can be refined with the diagnostic criteria for iron deficiency to identify patients with ID who have not received treatment OR who do not have recent iron panels within a specific time frame (1 year).

These reports can be used within an ambulatory setting, hospital setting, or managed care setting and can be integrated into existing onboarding/academic detailing or population health workflows

Example: a nurse within a cardiology practice runs the chronic disease registry to identify patients with upcoming appointments that are candidates for iron studies and/or referral for IV iron infusion.

BEST PRACTICE ALERTS

Best practice alerts (BPAs) can also identify patients with ID who have not received treatment OR who do not have recent iron panels within a specific time frame (1 year).

BPAs can include a link to order a specific IV iron product (hospital setting) or referral to infusion center (ambulatory setting).

Some practices may already have BPAs set up for heart failure guideline-directed medical therapy. IV iron can be incorporated to mitigate alert fatigue from multiple pop-ups.

ORDER SETS

Order sets are a great opportunity to embed iron panels and IV iron products within an existing workflow as many hospitals use these on admission.

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