

# Post-Acute Care Heart Failure Center Certificate Overview

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## BACKGROUND

The mission of the American Heart Association (AHA) Post-Acute Care Heart Failure Center Certification program is to improve the outcomes of patients with chronic heart failure while partnering with acute-care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and other post-acute care providers.



The Post-Acute Care Heart Failure Center Certification is now available to all skilled nursing facilities in the U.S. These skilled nursing facilities may now be recognized for providing access to quality care for treatment of heart failure patients based on a new standard of care through a new certification offered by the Association.

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## BENEFITS

### For Patients

- Provide patients with access to centers focused on treating heart failure and its comorbidities
- Provide patients with confidence that the centers can provide the most effective heart failure treatment strategies
- Provide patients with assurance that the center has been vetted and is recognized by the American Heart Association, based on professional evaluation criteria designed by heart failure experts

### For Certified Facilities and those in-process

- Promote and recognize the role and function of those facilities who are certified
- Become a referral source for acute-care hospitals treating patients with heart failure
- Establish a national collaborating network of American Heart Association Post-Acute Care Heart Failure Center facilities for health care provider access
- Establish a pathway for appropriate reimbursement for those health care professionals treating patients with heart failure and its co-morbidities
- *Provide direct access to AHA-sponsored live and online educational activities\**
- *Online AHA Post Acute network of SNF providers that can provide best practices and support\**
- *Consultative services from AHA staff throughout the entire certification process\**

### For Referring Hospitals

- The care a patient receives impacts readmission rates (+ or -), PACHF certification program can help reduce unnecessary readmissions and save substantial amount of money
- Improves care coordination and communication between the Hospital and SNF(s), in turn enhancing the continuum of care for the patient for improved outcomes
- Gives the hospital assurance that the patient will have strong continuity of care
- Gives the patient piece of mind that the hospital has developed a program that provides excellent care throughout their treatment
- The hospital can have confidence that the SNF(s) have been highly vetted by AHA experts

### Insurance Provider and Payment Engagement

- Establishes collaborative and educational liaison with payors
- Provides standardized criteria for a Post-Acute Care Heart Failure Skilled Nursing facility program
- Provides information on effective treatment strategies and protocols

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- The skilled nursing facility is in the United States or operated by the US government, or operated under a charter of the US Congress
- The skilled nursing facility heart failure program uses a standardized method of delivering clinical care based on current evidence-based guidelines
- The program uses heart failure performance measurement to improve its performance over time.

*\*Added benefits at no cost to facilities*

## CERTIFICATION TERM

Post-Acute Care Heart Failure facilities are certified for a three-year term.

## FEES

Post-Acute Care Heart Failure Certification - \$2,000 annually for a three - year certification term.

REQUIREMENT NUMBER	POST-ACUTE CARE HEART FAILURE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT OVERVIEW	Skilled Nursing Facility
1	<b>Program Management</b> The post-acute care heart failure program defines its mission, goals, scope, and organizational structure. It identifies a heart failure program champion(s) and organizes an interprofessional committee which oversees the post-acute care heart failure program.	√
2	<b>Personnel Education</b> Staff have the education, experience and training for the monitoring and management of heart failure patients. The education program should be provided regularly and tailored to all levels of healthcare providers	√
3	<b>Patient/Caregiver Education &amp; Support</b> The heart failure program provides the patient and caregiver individualized heart failure education and support	√
4	<b>Care Coordination</b> The program demonstrates care coordination across the system of care for the heart failure patient in three domains: pre-admission, throughout the patient's admission to the facility, and at discharge.	√
5	<b>Clinical Management</b> The heart failure program's ability to provide post-acute care to persons with a heart failure diagnosis.	√
6	<b>Performance Improvement</b> Ongoing quality improvement measuring adherence to evidence- based guidelines aimed at improving care and outcomes for heart failure patients in the post-acute setting.	√

To learn more about Post-Acute Care Heart Failure Certification visit [www.heart.org/certification](http://www.heart.org/certification) or contact us at [certification@heart.org](mailto:certification@heart.org)