

**HFSA 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting**  
**Abstract Submission April 3, 2000**  
**Heart Failure Society**

**Economic Impact of an Intermittent Inotropic Infusion Heart Failure Program in a Community Hospital Setting.**

**Background:** The problem of recurrent hospital admissions and cost for exacerbation of heart failure (HF) has been well documented. Implementation of an outpatient inotrope infusion clinic has made a substantial impact on readmission rates and costs.

**Methods:** A retrospective chart review of 40 patients admitted to the HF Clinic for two years was performed looking at all HF admissions one year prior to enrollment and one year after. Based on available state and national data the cost reduction in dollars was estimated.

**Results:** Forty patients were admitted to the HF Clinic in one year. 32 were male, 6 were female, 2 withdrew after one visit. Mean age was 76 years with a functional Class of III and IV and an average EF of 23%. In the year prior to admission to the HF Clinic 81 inpatient admissions were seen with a total length of stay (LOS) of 530 days. After enrollment in the HF Clinic the group had 24 inpatient admissions and LOS of 154 days. Based on regional admission rates, LOS and costs the resultant savings was estimated at \$1576 per LOS day resulting in an overall cost reduction of \$593,000.

**Conclusion:** Dramatic reduction in length of stay and readmission's can be achieved with initiation of a heart failure program in a community hospital setting even in the most severely symptomatic patient population resulting in a significant financial cost savings.