



Heart Failure Top Tips for GPs

[www.improvement.nhs.uk/
heart/heartfailure](http://www.improvement.nhs.uk/heart/heartfailure)



Top Tips for GPs - **THREE**

Managing heart failure patients

1. Untreated heart failure mortality is second only to lung cancer, although has now fallen from about 70% at one year and could fall as low as 10% with the best treatment - **YOU** can make that difference!
2. Review your patients twice a year
3. Review your patients after any hospital admission just to check medication hasn't been stopped!
4. If the patient develops angina, atrial fibrillation, or left bundle branch block consider referral to a cardiologist with an expertise in heart failure
5. If there are repeated admissions i.e. more than three in the last six months, then ensure that a heart failure cardiologist is involved and consider the GSF register, just like with cancer patients
6. Never forget spironolactone or eplerenone which can be excellent in more severe heart failure. Ask a cardiologist if in doubt!
7. Lobby your CCG for a consultant with a specific interest in heart failure
8. Lobby your CCG to commission a service that joins up secondary and primary care and makes best use of heart failure specialist nurses
9. Cardiac rehabilitation benefits heart failure patients a great deal, and keeps them out of hospital, and is good value for money
10. Visit The British Society for Heart Failure website at: www.bshf.org.uk if you want to join and for further advice