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John Vincent U Magalong^{1,2}, Felix Eduardo R Punzalan³, Marie Kirk Patrich A Maramara⁴, Frederick Berro B Rivera⁵, Zane Oliver O Nelson³, Bai Sitti Ameerah B Tago³, Cecileen Anne M Tuazon³, Ruth Divine D Agustin⁶, Lauren Kay M Evangelista³, Michelle Marie Q Pipo³, Eugenio B Reyes⁴, John C Añonuevo³, Diana R Tamondong-Lachica^{2,7}

¹College of Medicine, San Beda University, Manila, Philippines (main, current affiliation)

²Department of Medicine, Philippine General Hospital, University of the Philippines Manila, Manila, Philippines

³Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, Department of Medicine, College of Medicine and Philippine General Hospital, University of the Philippines Manila, Manila, Philippines

⁴Philippine General Hospital, University of the Philippines Manila, Manila, Philippines

⁵Department of Medicine, Lincoln Medical Center, The Bronx, New York (NY), USA

⁶Department of Health, Philippines

⁷College of Medicine, University of the Philippines Manila, Manila, Philippines

The Development of an Order Set for Adults Admitted for Acute Heart Failure at a National University Hospital in the Philippines

Background

Heart failure (HF) remains a leading cause of mortality and readmission worldwide. At the Philippine General Hospital (PGH), it consistently ranks among the top causes of adult inpatient death. While the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and European Society of Cardiology (ESC) guidelines recommend class I interventions proven to improve HF outcomes, their uptake in Philippine settings is limited. International hospitals have implemented guideline-based order sets with success, reducing in-hospital mortality and costs. This study aimed to develop a context-sensitive order set for adult patients presenting with acute heart failure (AHF) at the PGH Emergency Department (ED).

Methods

A mixed methods approach guided the development of the AHF order set. ESC and ACC guidelines were reviewed using the AGREE II appraisal tool. Class I interventions were compiled and refined through stakeholder input. Focus group discussions (FGDs) and online Delphi rounds involving physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals were used to evaluate relevance, feasibility, and local applicability.

Results

A total of 29 clinical recommendations were adopted covering monitoring, diagnostics, pharmacologic therapy, referrals, and ED disposition. The order set was adapted to the PGH context, incorporating COVID-19 workflow considerations and barriers identified during stakeholder consultations. A locally appropriate operational definition of AHF was established. The final version emphasized accessibility, evidence-based care, and cost-effectiveness.

Conclusion

A hospital-based, multidisciplinary process led to the creation and adoption of a locally contextualized AHF order set at PGH. Its use may standardize early management of AHF in a resource-constrained public hospital and improve outcomes among Filipino patients.

Keywords: acute heart failure, order set, clinical pathway, quality improvement

Biography

Dr. John Vincent Magalong completed his medical training at University of the Philippines Manila College of Medicine and residency in Internal Medicine at Philippine General Hospital. He is a Fellow of the Philippine College of Physicians. He serves as Clinical Faculty at San Beda University College of Medicine and Assistant Professor at Metropolitan Medical Center College of Medicine. He is a Medical Officer and part of the Research and Residency Training Core in Internal Medicine at Valenzuela Medical Center. His research interests include clinical pathway development and evidence synthesis in cardiometabolic pharmacotherapy, with early contributions published locally and internationally.