

Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing  
AMSN 2024  
Unit 6: Heart Failure online assignment (1.5H)

Directions:

- Read Lewis Chapter 38, review ATI Pharmacology Made Easy 4.0: Cardiovascular Module: Drug Therapy for Heart Failure, and review the Unit 6 Pharmacology List.
- Utilizing the resources above, complete the case study. There will be many items for each question.
- Utilizing the Pharmacology List and ATI/Skyscape, complete three ATI Medication Templates from the Pharmacology List.
- This assignment is due in the Unit 6: HF assignment drop box by March 11, 2024 at 0800.
- Be prepared to discuss this assignment in class.
- You must complete the assignment in full to receive the 1.5H theory credit.

Assignment Objectives:

- Determine overall goals in the treatment of heart failure.

**CASE STUDY:**

Frannie Failure, a patient on 4P, calls the nurse and states, "I feel really puffy. My rings feel so tight on my fingers and I am having trouble catching my breath." The patient is lying flat in the bed and is alert and oriented x 3. Normal saline 0.9% @ 125mL/HR is running.

Assessment:

- Vital Signs: T 97.9 oral, HR 120, RR 24, SpO2 86% RA, BP 152/94, pain 0/10.
- Respiratory: Lung sounds- crackles throughout bilaterally, non-productive cough.
- Cardiac: Heart sounds- S3, pedal pulses not palpable, 3+ pitting edema bilateral feet and ankles.
- Skin intact, pale and cool.
- Gastrointestinal: Bowel sounds x4 WNL, BM yesterday morning.
- Intake/Output: Patient has had 900ml in and 200ml out over the last 8 hours.

**1. What additional information would you want/need to know?**

- a. I would like to know what other medications the patient is on including and Lasix, due to the fact that her output is not equal to her input. I would like to know when her symptoms started. I would also like to know the patients medical history. I would also want to know the results of their recent lab draws.

**2. What assessment/ interventions would be appropriate for this patient?**

- a. I would sit the patient up in the bed and apply oxygen per nasal cannula to bring up her SpO2 and relieve her troubled breathing. I would apply continuous ECG and pulse ox monitoring. I would continually reassess her blood pressure and if not improvement I

would contact the provider. I would also temporarily pause the Normal Saline due to the patient being in fluid overload.

**3. What would you anticipate the healthcare provider to order?**

- a. I would anticipate the healthcare provider to order more medications to get more fluid off of the patient. Such as a diuretic. I would also anticipate them to order a vasodilator due to the blood pressure. Also possibly an ACE inhibitor, this would all depend upon what medications the patient is currently on.

**4. What medications would be appropriate for this patient (include all pertinent from the Pharmacology List) ? Doses? Nursing Interventions? You will pick three of these medications to complete the ATI Medication Templates.**

- a. A thiazide diuretic (hydrochlorothiazide, 25mg PO) would be appropriate for this patient due to being in HF and hypertension. A loop diuretic (furosemide, 20mg IV) may also be appropriate due to the edema due to HF and the hypertension. A potassium-sparing diuretic (spironolactone, 100mg PO). would be appropriate due to the edema and hypertension. An inotropic (dobutamine, 2.5 mcg/kg/min) may be ordered for HF for short term. An inotropic/phosphodiesterase inhibitor (milrinone, 50 mcg/kg followed by continuous infusion at 0.5 mcg/kg/min) may be order for HF for long term and short term treatment.

**5. What patient education would you include?**

- a. Report any abnormal symptoms. Change positions slowly. Alert of any dizziness. Alert of any rash. Monitor your weight daily and notify provider of a gain of >3lbs in a day. Monitor your intake and output daily.