

Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing  
AMSN 2026  
Unit 6: Heart Failure online assignment (1.5H)

Directions:

- Read Lewis Chapter 38, review ATI Pharmacology Made Easy 5.0: 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 (see below for further details).
- This assignment is due in the Unit 6: HF assignment drop box by March 9, 2026 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?**

I would want to know if the patient has a history of heart failure, if she has any recent weight gain, if she is compliant with her home medications, what kind of diet she follows, what her labs look like, if she has any chest pain.

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

I would place the patient in high-fowlers position, apply oxygen via NC to get her oxygen up, stop the NS that is running, and assess her lung sounds. I would also make her strict I's and O's, assess her edema, weigh her daily, and monitor her vitals closer.

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

I would expect him to order a diuretic, a STAT CXR, BNP, ABG's, a fluid restriction, sodium restriction, and cardiac monitoring.

**4. What medications would be appropriate for this patient (include all pertinent from the Unit 6 Pharmacology List) ? What doses? Nursing Interventions?**

Furosemide- 20-80mg/day PO- assess fluid status, monitor blood pressure and pulse before and during administration, assess patient for tinnitus, assess for skin rash, monitor electrolytes

Nitroglycerin- 2.5-9 mg q8-12h PO- Monitor blood pressure and pulse before and after administration, assess pain

Morphine sulfate- 30mg q3-4h PO- assess pain, assess anxiety, assess level of consciousness, blood pressure, pulse and respirations, assess bowel function, and risk for opioid addiction

Lisinopril- 10mg PO daily- Monitor blood pressure and pulse frequently, assessed for signs of angioedema, monitor, weight, monitor BUN, creatinine, and electrolyte levels

Spironolactone- 25mg PO daily- Monitor intake and output, evaluate blood pressure, assess patient for skin rash, assess for hyperkalemia

**You will pick three of these medications to complete the ATI Medication Templates.**

**5. What patient education would you provide to Frannie Failure?**

I would educate her on the importance of taking her diuretics as ordered, to take her weight every morning at the same time and to report any weight gain more than 2 pounds in a day, to follow a low sodium diet, to follow a fluid restriction, and to report increased swelling and shortness of breath.