

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?

Some additional information I would want to know is if there is any history of heart failure, such as CAD, MI, any history of hypertension, diabetes etc. How long she has felt "puffy" and how often her rings half felt tight. I would want to know if she was on any prior medications such as Lasix or a diuretic and if she has been compliant with taking them. If she uses oxygen at home, if she has SOB any other time of the day such as night that wakes her up because she is laying flat. I would want to know baseline vitals and any prior lab work such as a BMP, electrolytes, ABGs etc.

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

First priority is to raise the head of the bed, it says she is laying flat and having SOB. Her O2 is 86% on RA, so I would immediately put on oxygen via NC at start at 2-3 L, I would also do a focused lung assessment to check for crackles since she appears to have pitting edema and excess fluid. Monitoring heart rate, respirations and even fluid intake are essential, she would probably be put on a fluid restriction until some of that excess fluid comes off.

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

I would anticipate labs such as BNP, CMP and troponin. ABG's and maybe a chest xray and even CT scan if no prior heart history issues. I would also assume a diuretic and oxygen. Possible fluid restriction as well as a sodium restriction.

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

1. Furosemide - 20-40 mg IV push. For nursing interventions we would want to monitor potassium, daily weights, assess lung sounds and monitor urine output.
2. Milrinone - Loading dose of 50 mcg/kg over 10min, maintenance 0.375-0.75 mcg/kg/min continuous IV. Nursing interventions would include: continuous cardiac monitoring because this medication can cause a risk of dysrhythmias, monitor BP, electrolytes, assess for improved perfusion, monitor renal function.
3. Captopril - 6.25-12.5 mg PO 2-3 times daily. Nursing Interventions: Monitor BP, potassium, kidney function, assess for a dry cough as that is a common side effect.

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

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

Some education for Frannie, is to take daily weights, the same time, same clothes daily. Follow a low sodium diet as well as a fluid restriction (if ordered). Medication compliance is huge, and taking diuretics in the morning, but also monitoring for any side effects such as dizziness, low potassium, SOB, swelling in legs or hands, fatigue, cough. Frannie will want to sleep with head elevated and void lying flat.