

flowchart LR

%% =====

%% Top row

%% =====

A["1. Symptoms/signs
suggestive of heart failure"]

B["2. Initial clinical assessment
(primary care / internal medicine)"]

C{"3. Acute
instability?"}

A --> B

B --> C

C -- YES --> D

C -- NO --> E

D["3a. Emergency / acute
heart failure pathway"]

E["4. First-line diagnostic tests"]

D --> F

F["3b. Same-day hospital assessment"]

F --> L

%% =====

%% Diagnostic pathway

%% =====

E --> G

G{"5. Natriuretic
Peptides elevated /
suspicion persists?"}

G -- YES --> H

H["Consider alternative
diagnosis or reassess
symptoms persist"]

G -- NO --> I

I["6. Specialist assessment +
transthoracic echocardiography"]

I --> J

J["Urgent if
high NT-proBNP
or high-risk
2-6 weeks
>depending on
clinical status"]

J --> K

K["7. Confirm HF phenotype and cause

HFrEF \n HFmrEF \n

HFpEF \n Specific \n Specific causal/comorbid phenotype"]

K --> L

%% =====

%% Treatment

%% =====

L["8. Initiate therapy

A. Congestion relief

B.
Disease-modifying therapy
(for HFrEF)

HFrEF / HFmrEF:
diuretics for congestion,
SGLT2 inhibitor,
treat
comorbidities and underlying cause"]

L --> M

M["9. Address comorbidities
and triggers"]

M --> P

%% =====

%% Follow-up

%% =====

N["10a. Early review after diagnosis or
medication change: 1–2
weeks"]

O["10b. Post-discharge follow-up
after hospitalization

>within
7 days to
2 weeks"]

P["10c. Reassessment at ~3 months"]

N --> O

O --> P

N --> Q

%% =====

%% Escalation

%% =====

Q{"11. Escalate?"}

Q --> R

Q -- NO --> U

Q -- YES --> S

R["Continue
current pathway
and follow-up"]

S{"Persistent symptoms, recurrent
hospitalization, severe LV
dysfunction,
intolerance to therapy, arrhythmias,
severe
valve disease, progressive
renal / hepatic dysfunction?"}

S -- YES --> T

T["12. Tertiary / advanced heart failure referral"]

T -.-> U

%% =====
%% Longitudinal care
%% =====

U["13. Longitudinal cycle of care

Recognize → Diagnose →
Treat → Follow up → Reassess → Escalate when needed"]

%% =====
%% Styling
%% =====

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