

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: APS-02
(X-##)

Introduced by: Academic Physicians Section (AMA-APS)

Subject: Rename “Heart Failure” and “Congestive Heart Failure”

Referred to: Reference Committee __

1 Whereas, The medical condition known as “Congestive Heart Failure” (CHF), also known as
2 “Heart Failure” (HF), designates a diseased state of the cardiovascular system, in which the
3 heart’s ability to generate a cardiac output above resting levels has become compromised; and
4

5 Whereas, This diseased state is not denoted as “Heart Failure” or “Congestive Heart Failure” in
6 various Romance languages, but rather by words that would be translated into English as
7 “Cardiac Insufficiency” [as exemplified by “*Insuficiencia Cardiaca*” (in Spanish) and “*Insuffisance*
8 *Cardiaque*” (in French)]; and
9

10 Whereas, The terms “Congestive Heart Failure” and “Heart Failure” can be needlessly terrifying
11 to patients, by incorrectly suggesting that their heart is at risk for sudden stoppage, conveying a
12 mistaken impression of a high risk of sudden cardiac death; and
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14 Whereas, The term “Cardiac Insufficiency” or “Heart Insufficiency” would more accurately
15 describe this diseased state of the heart to patients and their families than the terms “Heart
16 Failure” or “Congestive Heart Failure”; and
17

18 Whereas, This resolution does not advocate for changing the name of this disease entity within
19 the ICD-10 classification scheme, which is anticipated to remain termed “Heart Failure”; and
20

21 Whereas, The subtypes of Heart Failure could be renamed 1) “Cardiac Insufficiency with
22 Preserved Ejection Fraction (CIPEF)” or “Heart Insufficiency with Preserved Ejection Fraction”
23 (HIPEF); and 2) “Cardiac Insufficiency with Reduced Ejection Fraction” (CIREF) or “Heart
24 Insufficiency with Reduced Ejection Fraction” (HIREF); and
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26 Whereas, This type of change has precedent in the medical field—for example, the term
27 “Nuclear Magnetic Resonance” (NMR) was changed to “Magnetic Resonance Imaging” (MRI)
28 after the Three Mile Island nuclear accident, because the term “Nuclear” had acquired
29 significant negative connotations for a sizable portion of the population; therefore be it
30

31 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association advocate to the American College of
32 Cardiology and American Heart Association for replacement of the terms “Congestive Heart
33 Failure” (CHF) and “Heart Failure” (HF) by the terms “Cardiac Insufficiency” (CI) and “Heart
34 Insufficiency” (HI) when this disease is discussed in the United States (Directive to Take Action);
35 and be it further
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37 RESOLVED, That our AMA advocate to the American College of Cardiology and American
38 Heart Association for use of the following terms to describe the two major subclassifications of
39 this disease with members of medical care teams and with patients and their families: 1)
40 “Cardiac Insufficiency with Preserved Ejection Fraction” (CIPEF) or “Heart Insufficiency with

- 1 Preserved Ejection Fraction” (HIPEF); and 2) “Cardiac Insufficiency with Reduced Ejection
- 2 Fraction” (CIREF); or “Heart Insufficiency with Reduced Ejection Fraction” (HIREF). (Directive to
- 3 Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: TBD

RELEVANT AMA POLICY