

## DIAGNOSTIC EVALUATION EXACERBATION OF CONGESTIVE HEART FAILURE (CHF)

The goals of the diagnostic evaluation of patients who present with symptoms suggestive of an exacerbation of an established diagnosis of CHF are: (1) Confirm the clinical diagnosis of CHF; (2) Determine the etiology of the acute exacerbation; (3) Determine whether left ventricular function has previously been assessed and the results of that assessment; (4) Determine the type of ventricular dysfunction; (5) Classify the patient's symptoms by New York Heart Association (NYHA) functional class.

