



Clinical Factsheets: Practical information at a glance for busy health professionals

Cia Connell, BPharm, MCLinPharm

We work in an era where seemingly infinite information and guidance is at our fingertips. An overwhelming amount of clinically significant research is published daily. Clinical guideline authors have an important role to play, appraising, evaluating, and translating primary literature into comprehensive recommendations and advice for health professionals. However, the comprehensive nature of clinical guidelines can make accessing concise, targeted and practical advice in a timely manner challenging in routine clinical practice.

The Heart Foundation currently provides clinical information primarily through clinical guidelines and position statements in addition to online tools for health care practitioners. Our two most recently published clinical guidelines, produced in partnership with the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, systematically outline key recommendations and their rationale, algorithms, practical advice, and resource considerations across the spectrum of prevention, screening, diagnosis, and management of atrial fibrillation⁽¹⁾ and heart failure⁽²⁾. They are the [National Heart Foundation of Australia and the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand: Australian Clinical Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Atrial Fibrillation 2018](#) and the [National Heart Foundation of Australia and Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand: Guidelines for the prevention, detection and management of heart failure in Australia 2018](#).

For audiences that require concise and practical recommendations for specific areas of cardiovascular disease (CVD) management, we have developed a series of clinical fact sheets to complement these comprehensive guidelines. The fact sheets encompass commonly encountered, contemporary, complex or poorly understood recommendations and advice into a quick reference practical guide easily accessible and easy to use for time-poor clinicians. The first four clinical fact sheets produced are:

- Atrial fibrillation screening and diagnostic work-up
- Diagnosis and classification of heart failure
- Pharmacological management of chronic heart failure with reduced left ventricular ejection fraction (HFrEF)
- Stroke prevention in non-valvular atrial fibrillation using CHA2DS2-VA score

The fact sheets have been produced with and intended for use by generalist clinicians, including general practitioners, nurses, and other medical and allied health professionals.

The fact sheets will be published on the heart foundation website in March 2019: <https://www.heartfoundation.org.au/for-professionals/clinical-information>

References

1. Brieger D, Amerena J, Attia J, Bajorek B, Chan KH, Connell C, et al. National Heart Foundation of Australia and the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand: Australian Clinical Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Atrial Fibrillation 2018. *Heart Lung Circ.* 2018;27(10):1209-66.
2. Atherton JJ, Sindone A, De Pasquale CG, Driscoll A, MacDonald PS, Hopper I, et al. National Heart Foundation of Australia and Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand: Guidelines for the Prevention, Detection, and Management of Heart Failure in Australia 2018. *Heart Lung Circ.* 2018;27(10):1123-208.