



Personal Decision Support System
for Heart Failure Management

The HeartMan project and its European context

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www.heartman-project.eu

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Cardiovascular disease in the EU

- Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death in the European Union (EU) and a major cause of ill health
 - 1.8 million people die from CVD every year
 - Almost 49 million people live with CVD



Heart Failure

- Within CVD heart failure is common – but not widely known
- Heart failure occurs when the heart can no longer pump enough blood around the body as it has become too weak or stiff. It is a clinical syndrome typical symptoms of which include shortness of breath, fatigue, fluid retention and ankle swelling. Heart failure can also impact on a patient's ability to sleep or impair his/her cognitive function

Heart Failure

- Heart failure is a major health burden throughout Europe
- The burden is felt heavily on patients and their families/carers
- Heart failure is also a significant burden on healthcare systems and society as a whole

Heart Failure

- We do not know exactly how many people in the EU live with heart failure – but it could be more than 10 million people according to estimates that prevalence in developed countries is 1-2% of the population
- Prevalence of heart failure in the EU is set to increase due to an ageing population and occurrence of co-morbidity factors

Heart Failure

- Total annual cost related to heart failure in 24 EU member states has been estimated to €29 billion/year
- Heart failure is a leading cause for hospital admissions and on average requires longer stays in hospital than heart attacks.

Heart Failure

- In conclusion there is a great need to invest in research on heart failure, including how a system – like HeartMan – can help improve health status and quality of life for patients and, potentially, help contain healthcare and overall societal costs

Thank you!



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