

# Context and Background

## Heart failure is the destination condition of most cardiovascular diseases.

Cardiometabolic disorders such as diabetes with factors such as obesity, raised cholesterol and high blood pressure are also prevalent in people diagnosed with heart failure.

An estimated **1 million** people are living with heart failure in the UK. There are **200,000** new diagnoses each year with an estimated **400,000** cases currently undetected in UK.

**80%** of Heart Failure first diagnoses are made as emergency admissions to hospital, with several patients visiting their GPs with symptoms in the months before admission.

**30%** of patients diagnosed with heart failure will die within the year following diagnosis.

The British Society for heart failure is leading the 25in25 initiative with 54+ national and international healthcare organisations.

This is a transformative Quality Improvement programme to save **10,000** lives per year by reducing deaths due to HF in the first year after diagnosis, by **25%** in the next 25 years.

We know earlier diagnosis and prompt effective treatment reduces mortality for people with heart failure.

**We believe General practice nurses working in and across Primary Care are key to supporting earlier identification of heart failure patients.**

# Collaboration

NHSE in partnership with the British Society of Heart Failure Nurse forum have been working collaboratively to develop a comprehensive educational resource for General Practice and Primary Care Nurses. The published primary care and core career and capability framework provides a useful insight into what characteristics are required to work at each level of practice with examples of the knowledge and skills required to be working at each level.

The six levels of sphere of clinical practice are:

- Support Work Level Practice Nursing Associate Level/Assistant Practitioner Level
- Registered Nurse Level Practice
- Registered Nurse: Enhanced Level Practice                      Report template ([skillsforhealth.org.uk](https://skillsforhealth.org.uk))
- Registered Nurse: Advanced Level Practice
- Registered Nurse: Consultant Level Practice

The Educational Heart Failure resources have been mapped by an expert generalist and specialist group of nurses according to scope of practice.



# Primary Care & General Practice Core Capabilities Framework

|  | Support Work Level Practice | Nursing Associate Level/Assistant Level Practice | Registered Nurse level | Registered Nurse: Enhanced Level Practice | Registered Nurse: Advanced Level Practice | Registered Nurse: Consultant Level Practice |
|--|-----------------------------|--|------------------------|---|---|---|
| Capability 1. Communication and consultation skills  | Tier 1                      | Tier 1   | Tier 2                 | Tier 2                                    | Tier 3                                    | Tier 3                                      |
| Capability 2. Practising holistically to personalise care and promote public and person health | Tier 1                      | Tier 1   | Tier 2                 | Tier 2                                    | Tier 3                                    | Tier 3                                      |
| Capability 3. Working with colleagues and in teams   | Tier 1                      | Tier 1   | Tier 2                 | Tier 2                                    | Tier 3                                    | Tier 3                                      |
| Capability 4. Maintaining an ethical approach and fitness to practice                          | Tier 1                      | Tier 1   | Tier 2                 | Tier 2                                    | Tier 3                                    | Tier 3                                      |
| Capability 5. Information gathering and interpretation   | Tier 1                      | Tier 1   | Tier 2                 | Tier 2                                    | Tier 3                                    | Tier 3                                      |
| Capability 6. Clinical examination and procedural skills                                       | Tier 1                      | Tier 1   | Tier 2                 | Tier 2                                    | Tier 3                                    | Tier 3                                      |
| Capability 7. Making a diagnosis   |                             |  | Tier 2                 | Tier 2                                    | Tier 3                                    | Tier 3                                      |
| Capability 8. Clinical management  |                             | Tier 1   | Tier 2                 | Tier 2                                    | Tier 3                                    | Tier 3                                      |
| Capability 9. Managing medical and clinical complexity   |                             | Tier 1   | Tier 2                 | Tier 2                                    | Tier 3                                    | Tier 3                                      |
| Capability 10. Independent prescribing and pharmacotherapy                                     |                             | Tier 1   | Tier 2                 | Tier 2                                    | Tier 3                                    | Tier 3                                      |
| Capability 11. Leadership, management and organisation   |                             | Tier 1   | Tier 2                 | Tier 2                                    | Tier 3                                    | Tier 3                                      |
| Capability 12. Education and development   |                             | Tier 1   | Tier 2                 | Tier 2                                    | Tier 3                                    | Tier 3                                      |
| Capability 13. Research and evidence based practice  |                             | Tier 1   | Tier 2                 | Tier 2                                    | Tier 3                                    | Tier 3                                      |
| Capability 14. Strategic Management  |                             |  |                        |   |   | Tier 3                                      |

The framework articulates core capabilities necessary for safe and effective care. The capabilities (i.e., skills, knowledge, and behaviours) described in the framework are defined at 3 tiers.

Each tier articulates the minimum and core capability to be expected as opposed to the maximum:

- **Tier 1:** Capabilities that require a general understanding and that support provision of primary care/general practice nursing.
- **Tier 2:** Capabilities that enable the provision of care more independently and a degree of critical analysis.
- **Tier 3:** Capabilities that require an ability to provide care autonomously and independently, an ability to lead practice, operating at the cutting edge of innovation.

More information is available [here](#).

# Scope of Practice

| Role Level Descriptor      | Tier and Scope of Practice Aligned to Primary Care Core Career and Capabilities Framework | Qualifications  | Skills and Application of Knowledge and Scope of Practice  |
|----------------------------|---|---|--|
| Health Care Support Worker | 1   | <p>Introduction or awareness course – 1–3-day duration.</p> <p>BSH Health care professional competency document: Core heart failure knowledge (page 6) signed off.</p> <p>Period supervised practice from GPN/ANP until deemed competent and proficient within scope of practice.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to complete annual reviews of those at risk, under RN supervision.</li> <li>• Diet and lifestyle advice.</li> <li>• An awareness of HF and symptoms of heart failure in patients and escalate concerns.</li> </ul>   |
| NA                         | 1   | <p>Introduction or awareness course 1-3 days duration.</p> <p>BSH Health care professional competency document: Core heart failure knowledge (page 6) signed off.</p> <p>Period supervised practice from GPN/ANP until deemed competent and proficient.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to complete annual reviews of those at risk, under RN supervision.</li> <li>• Diet and lifestyle advice.</li> <li>• Ability to recognise symptoms of heart failure in patients and escalate concerns.</li> </ul>   |
| GPN<br><br>Enhanced Level  | 2   | <p>Heart Failure specific module at levels 5 to 7.</p> <p>Attendance at CPD activities relating to heart failure and cardiovascular disease.</p> <p>BSH Health care professional competency document: Pages 6-12, and core sections only for pages 14-17.</p> <p>Period supervised practice from GPN/ANP until deemed proficient.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understands local referral pathways.</li> <li>• Completes 6 monthly reviews on patients with a known diagnosis of chronic heart failure., care-planning.</li> <li>• Understands when to refer to specialist heart failure MDT.</li> <li>• Able to titrate or recommend to prescriber, titration of non- specialist initiation heart failure medications.</li> <li>• Able to advise on self- care and monitoring.</li> <li>• Ensures accurate coding of heart failure type on system.</li> </ul>   |
| ANP                        | 3   | <p>Level 7 Advanced Nurse Practitioner Pathway with incorporated disease specific module or equivalent training.</p> <p>Registered independent prescriber. Period supervised practice from GP/ANP/ HF specialist MDT until deemed competent and proficient.</p> <p>Heart failure module at level 6/7 if not part of ANP pathway . CPD activities relating to heart failure and cardiovascular disease.</p> <p>BSH Health care professional competency document; all sections completed and signed of.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tier 2 and additionally: Able to titrate or recommend to prescriber, titration of non-specialist initiation heart failure medications.</li> <li>• Able to devise a personalised care plan with patient in r self- monitoring, lifestyle and symptom recognition.</li> <li>• Able to advise on treatment options.</li> </ul> <p>If established links with heart failure MDT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Titration of specialist heart failure medications</li> <li>• Discussion with MDT regarding complex cases/ how to promote continuation of therapies in renal impairment.</li> </ul> |

# Resources for Tier 1

[The British Heart Foundation](#)

[Introduction to Heart failure | British Heart Foundation – BHF](#)

[Online learning - heart failure and heart valve disease – BHF](#)

[The Pumping Marvellous Foundation](#)

[Support Guides | Pumping Marvellous](#)

**Nursing Times**

[▶ Bitesize Learning Video 2: Heart failure causes | Nursing Times](#)

**Education for Health**

[The Foundations of Managing Chronic Heart Failure L5.pdf \(educationforhealth.org\)](#)

**The British Journal of Cardiology**

[Heart failure module 1: background, epidemiology and pathophysiology - The British Journal of Cardiology \(bjcardio.co.uk\)](#)

# Resources for Tier 2

## [E Learning For Health](#)

[Heart Failure and Heart Valve Disease - elearning for healthcare \(e-lfh.org.uk\)](#)

## **Nursing Times**

[▶ Video 3: Heart failure diagnosis | Nursing Times](#)

[▶ Video 4: Heart failure management | Nursing Times](#)

## **British Journal of Cardiology**

[Heart failure module 2: diagnosis - The British Journal of Cardiology \(bjcardio.co.uk\)](#)

[Heart failure module 5: special cases in heart failure - The British Journal of Cardiology \(bjcardio.co.uk\)](#)

[About our Community - Issues and Answers](#)

[Back to Basics: Heart failure medication - Issues and Answers](#)

## **Education for Health**

[Tackling the Complexity of Managing Heart Failure Short Course - Education For Health](#)

# Resources for Tier 3

## **Glasgow Caledonian University**

Principles of care in contemporary heart failure management (20 level 7 credits)

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate-nursing-advancing-professional-practice-glasgow#what-will-you-study>

## **Keele University**

Heart failure management in practice (30 level 7 credits)

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/health/postgraduate/individualpostgraduatemodules/heartfailuremanagementinclinicalpractice/>

## **Education for Health:**

<https://www.educationforhealth.org/product/heart-failure-beyond-the-basics-level-7-module/>

## **British Journal of Cardiology**

[Heart failure module 7: end-of-life care for people with heart failure - The British Journal of Cardiology \(bjcardio.co.uk\)](https://www.bjcardio.co.uk)

# Additional Support & Resources

## [British Society of Heart Failure](#)

[Infographics — British Society For Heart Failure \(bsh.org.uk\)](#) A range of resources in different Languages to support continuous Professional Development.

[What+Matters+Meaningful+Conversation+Plan+\(SINGLE+PAGES\).pdf \(squarespace.com\)](#) Supporting Personalised and holistic Heart Failure Conversations.

[Cardiac+Supportive++Palliative+Care+Guidance+\(SINGLE+PAGES\).pdf \(squarespace.com\)](#)

Many ICSs offer training to primary care staff. Every practice and PCN will have access to Training Hub resources and guidance. There are 42 at Integrated Care System (ICS) level, with several locality hubs that help support links between practices and PCNs. Click [here](#) to find your local Training Hub or email the national team on [traininghubs@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:traininghubs@hee.nhs.uk).

The NHS [knowledge and library hub](#) connects healthcare staff and trainees to a significant range of high-quality knowledge and evidence resources, services, tools, and databases. Accessed using NHS [OpenAthens](#) or through a local NHS Health library, it's a good resource for GPs and practice staff.



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