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

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

Whereas, The terms “Congestive Heart Failure” and “Heart Failure” can be needlessly terrifying to patients, by incorrectly suggesting that their heart is at risk for sudden stoppage, conveying a mistaken impression of a high risk of sudden cardiac death; and

Whereas, The term “Cardiac Insufficiency” or “Heart Insufficiency” would more accurately describe this diseased state of the heart to patients and their families than the terms “Heart Failure” or “Congestive Heart Failure”; and

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

Whereas, The subtypes of Heart Failure could be renamed 1) “Cardiac Insufficiency with Preserved Ejection Fraction (CIPEF)” or “Heart Insufficiency with Preserved Ejection Fraction” (HIPEF); and 2) “Cardiac Insufficiency with Reduced Ejection Fraction” (CIREF) or “Heart Insufficiency with Reduced Ejection Fraction” (HIREF); and

Whereas, This type of change has precedent in the medical field—for example, the term “Nuclear Magnetic Resonance” (NMR) was changed to “Magnetic Resonance Imaging” (MRI) after the Three Mile Island nuclear accident, because the term “Nuclear” had acquired significant negative connotations for a sizable portion of the population; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association advocate to the American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association for replacement of the terms “Congestive Heart Failure” (CHF) and “Heart Failure” (HF) by the terms “Cardiac Insufficiency” (CI) and “Heart Insufficiency” (HI) when this disease is discussed in the United States (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA advocate to the American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association for use of the following terms to describe the two major subclassifications of this disease with members of medical care teams and with patients and their families: 1) “Cardiac Insufficiency with Preserved Ejection Fraction” (CIPEF) or “Heart Insufficiency with...
Preserved Ejection Fraction” (HIPEF); and 2) “Cardiac Insufficiency with Reduced Ejection Fraction” (CIREF); or “Heart Insufficiency with Reduced Ejection Fraction” (HIREF). (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: TBD

RELEVANT AMA POLICY