# Establishing an Interprofessional Care Pathway Across the Continuum for Patients Following Implantation of Left Ventricular Assist Device

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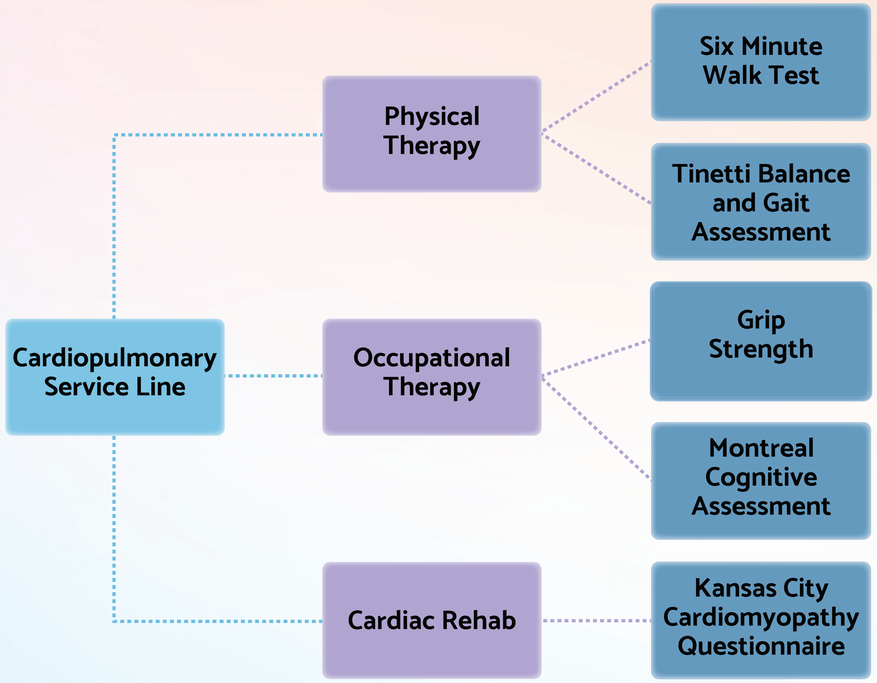
## PURPOSE

The purpose of this process improvement project was to describe the use of multidisciplinary outcome measures to assess function and establish a care pathway across the continuum of care for patient's status post Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) implantation.

## DESCRIPTION

There is limited evidence available focusing on the rehabilitation management of a patient implanted with LVAD for destination therapy. Lehigh Valley Health Network has established a dedicated patient specific service line model to standardize the care provided to each patient population.

Five patients have been identified and successfully completed outcome measures across the continuum of care. Sample size remains limited due to the high-risk nature of LVAD implantation for destination therapy.





## SUMMARY OF USE

- Outcome measures were administered:
  - Pre-operatively
  - Post-operatively within 48 hours of discharge from hospital
  - Prior to discharge from the inpatient rehabilitation center to the next level of care (home vs SNF)

## IMPORTANCE TO MEMBERS (CLINICAL RELEVANCE)

- Creates a more efficient method for tracking treatment effectiveness
- Contributes to better patient outcomes/satisfaction
- The data results collected from these outcome measures continue to be used to:
  - Further improve patient care
  - Guide treatment interventions
  - Support discharge recommendations from both acute care and inpatient rehabilitation.

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