

Table A. Comorbidities retrieved from hospital discharge records: 31 Elixhauser conditions plus acute myocardial infarction, cerebrovascular diseases, dementia, and leukaemia (Quan et al. 2005, for ICD-9-CM codes).

| Clinical condition |
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| History of congestive heart failure |
| Cardiac arrhythmias |
| Valvular disease |
| Pulmonary circulation disorders |
| Peripheral vascular disorders |
| Hypertension, uncomplicated |
| Hypertension, complicated |
| Paralysis |
| Other neurological disorders |
| Chronic pulmonary disease |
| Diabetes, uncomplicated |
| Diabetes, complicated |
| Hypothyroidism |
| Chronic kidney disease |
| Liver disease |
| Peptic ulcer disease excluding bleeding |
| AIDS/HIV |
| Lymphoma |
| Metastatic cancer |
| Solid tumour without metastasis |
| Rheumatoid arthritis/collagen vascular diseases |
| Coagulopathy |
| Obesity |
| Weight loss |
| Fluid and electrolyte disorders |
| Blood loss anaemia |
| Deficiency anaemia |
| Alcohol abuse |
| Drug abuse |
| Psychoses |
| Depression |
| Acute myocardial infarction |
| Cerebrovascular diseases |
| Dementia |
| Leukaemia |

Table B. ATC codes for identification of medication use before heart failure.

| Medication | ATC codes |
|--|-------------------------|
| Antidiabetic drugs | A10 |
| Drugs for cardiac therapy | C01 |
| Drugs for obstructive airway diseases | R03 |
| Diuretics | C03 |
| β -blockers | C07 |
| Angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors/angiotensin receptor blockers | C09 |
| Calcium channel blockers and other antihypertensive drugs | C02, C08 |
| Statins | C10AA |
| Antiplatelet drugs | B01AC |
| Oral anticoagulants | B01AA03, B01AA07, B01AE |