

Dear Colleagues, Partners, and Friends,

The iCARDIO Alliance has been making great strides with its first Global Implementation Guidelines, and we're excited to share our progress with you in this second edition of our quarterly iCARDIO newsletter.

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## 01 Heart Failure Global Implementation Guidelines – our first Guidelines nearing publication!

The iCARDIO Alliance Heart Failure Global Implementation Guidelines are in their final stages of preparation and we are excited to announce their publication in the second quarter of this year. Heart failure affects over 64 million people worldwide and is a leading cause of hospitalization and rising healthcare costs. With its increasing prevalence, driven by aging populations and higher rates of hypertension, diabetes, and obesity, heart failure presents a significant global health challenge that demands urgent attention to prevention, diagnosis, and management. Our Heart Failure Guidelines will be the first to be produced by the iCARDIO Alliance and are designed to help clinicians worldwide address this pressing issue.

As the iCARDIO Alliance's first-ever Global Implementation Guidelines, this project has been both exciting and, at times, challenging. Our Heart Failure Guidelines Task Force, composed of leading heart failure specialists from around the world, was the first to be formed. A key goal of the iCARDIO Alliance is to ensure equitable representation across regions, preventing over-representation of specialists from Europe and North America, while also maintaining a gender balance among contributors. This diversity strengthens the Guidelines, making them more applicable across different healthcare settings and resource levels.

All iCARDIO Alliance Guidelines use a unique 'cascading' format, which tailors recommendations based on resource availability – categorized as 'unconstrained,' 'somewhat constrained,' or 'severely constrained' – ensuring that clinicians in any setting can implement them effectively.

Having our experts living in so many different time-zones has also presented challenges in coordinating meetings, with many of our experts working late into the night or extremely early in the morning. We are enormously grateful to all the already busy cardiologists who contributed their time and expertise, on a purely voluntary basis, to produce these Guidelines.

The iCARDIO Alliance Global Implementation Guidelines also undergo a Public Review process, inviting feedback from medical professionals, key stakeholders, and the public. The Heart Failure Public Review, which ran from December 30, 2024, to January 25, 2025, received 81 individual contributions. We were delighted with the level of engagement, and many of the insightful comments were integrated into the final draft.

The Guidelines will be published in open access in *Global Cardiology* and co-published in multiple other journals.

Additionally, the Guidelines will be accessible on the [iCARDIO Alliance website](#) in open access. To enhance accessibility, we are also developing a mobile app, enabling clinicians to easily reference the Guidelines on their devices.

Stay tuned for the official launch, and thank you to everyone who contributed to this important initiative!

## 02 Coming soon! Public Review of the iCARDIO CVD in Obesity Global Implementation Guidelines

Recognizing the urgent need for effective prevention and management strategies to address the growing global crisis of obesity, the iCARDIO Alliance is developing CVD in Obesity Global Implementation Guidelines, uniquely designed to be applicable and implementable across all economic settings worldwide to enhance prevention and management strategies.

With an estimated one billion people affected by this epidemic and increasing healthcare associated costs globally, we invite you to take part in the development of these critically important guidelines.

The Public Review of the iCARDIO CVD in Obesity Global Implementation Guidelines will be open on the [iCARDIO Alliance website](#) in April for two weeks.

We encourage health professionals as well as members of the public to provide feedback, citing specific pages, lines, tables, or figures in their comments. While reviewers must provide their name and contact details, this information will not appear in the final publication. All submitted comments will be carefully reviewed by the Obesity Task Force, which will have final authority over suggested revisions.

Your insights are invaluable in shaping these guidelines to ensure they are practical, effective, and globally relevant. Join us in this important initiative and help make a lasting impact on obesity and cardiovascular disease management.

For more details and to access the review materials, visit the [iCARDIO Alliance website](#). We look forward to your feedback!

### Survey on Obesity Clinical Practice Guidelines: Global Insights

The iCARDIO Alliance conducted a global survey from August to December 2024 to better understand how clinicians use obesity guidelines, as well as perceived gaps and implementation challenges.

The study examined differences in guideline use between clinicians in high-income countries (HICs) and low-/middle-income countries (LMICs), providing valuable insights into barriers to implementation worldwide. The results of the study are due to be presented at the 32nd European Congress on Obesity - ECO 2025 - from 11 to 14 May 2025 in Malaga, Spain.

## 03 International Survey on Healthcare Professionals' Perception of IHD Practice Guidelines

As part of our preparation of Ischemic Heart Disease (IHD) Global Implementation Guidelines, the iCARDIO Alliance will shortly be conducting a global survey to assess healthcare professionals' perceptions of IHD guidelines and their implementation. This initiative aims to identify gaps in existing guidelines and understand how they are applied in clinical practice worldwide.

Healthcare professionals involved in IHD patient care, either individually or as part of a team, are invited to participate. The survey will be completely anonymous, with all data collected and reported in aggregate. While there are no direct benefits to participants, their insights will contribute to a broader understanding of IHD care and guideline effectiveness.

The survey will soon be hosted on the [iCARDIO Alliance website](#) and will take approximately 12 minutes to complete. If you are eligible, we encourage you to share your perspective and help shape future improvements in IHD management.

The results and insights from this important global assessment will be published – we will keep you posted. In the meantime, the iCARDIO Alliance IHD Guidelines Task Force is working on the first draft of their Guidelines document and the Peer Review Team is being populated.

**Our first survey, on the Applicability of heart failure clinical practice guidelines in low-and middle income countries, was published last October in the European Journal of Heart Failure. [Read the article.](#)**

## 04 Global Implementation Guidelines on Diagnosis & Management of Atrial Fibrillation – Task Force in Formation

We're excited to announce the formation of our newest Task Force, which will draft the iCARDIO Alliance Global Implementation Guidelines on the Diagnosis & Management of Atrial Fibrillation. This Task Force boasts strong global representation and well-balanced gender diversity, ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive approach to guideline development.

We aim to publish these guidelines in the first quarter of 2026 and will keep you updated here as the team progresses!

## 05 How do iCARDIO Alliance Partner Societies participate?

Partner Societies form the backbone of the iCARDIO Alliance. There are currently 15 member societies of the Alliance.

As part of their role, Partner Societies are invited to propose experts as Members of the Guidelines Task Forces and to nominate Reviewers.

The Alliance places great value on balanced geographical representation of Task Force Members and Reviewers and also strongly encourages the recommendation of both male and female experts. We especially urge partners to propose highly qualified female experts to ensure diverse perspectives in developing our Guidelines.

We often receive questions regarding the time commitment expected from Task Force Members and Reviewers. While the workload varies, Task Force Members can expect to dedicate approximately 5 - 30 hours, while Reviewers should anticipate a total commitment of about 5 - 10 hours.

### iCARDIO Alliance Partnerships

16 Partner Societies

	Gulf Heart Association		Heart Failure Association of India
	Inter-American Society of Cardiology		Hypertension Society of India
	National Heart Failure Committee (China)		Italian Federation of Cardiology
	Chinese Heart Failure Association		American Society for Preventive Cardiology
	Association of Physicians of India		Pan-African Society of Cardiology
	Honduran Association of Cardiology		Canadian Cardiovascular Society
	Global Heart Hub		Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand
	Italian Heart Failure Association		International College of Cardiology

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact [dporter@icardio.org](mailto:dporter@icardio.org).

Thank you for your continued support!

With warmest wishes,  
The iCARDIO Team