

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

iCARDIO Alliance Releases 2026 Global Heart Failure Guideline Update

New recommendations address emerging evidence in heart failure on cardiac glycosides, vericiguat, cardiac myosin inhibitors, obesity-related HFpEF and preventive vaccination strategies

BASEL, 26 August 2026 – The International CARDIO Alliance to Improve Disease Outcomes (iCARDIO Alliance) announced today the publication of its 2026 iCARDIO Alliance Global Implementation Guidelines on Heart Failure, updating its 2025 Heart Failure Guidelines.

Building on the 2025 Guidelines, the 2026 edition includes new evidence released as recently as June 2026 and provides practical, implementation-focused recommendations that consider not only clinical evidence but also the realities of healthcare delivery in resource-variable settings.

The 2026 update strongly advocates for a simplified classification of heart failure into HFrEF (LVEF <50%) and HFpEF (LVEF ≥50%), reflecting the growing recognition that patients traditionally classified as having "mildly reduced" ejection fraction often benefit from the same therapies used in HFrEF.

Other important updates include recommendations on the use of digoxin, finerenone, and vericiguat in patients with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF), reflecting new evidence demonstrating benefits across a broader range of patients than previously recognized.

The 2026 Guidelines also strengthen and clarify the recommendations regarding cardiac glycosides, including digitoxin and digoxin, for patients who remain symptomatic despite guideline-directed medical therapy.

The new Guidelines introduce stronger recommendations for cardiac myosin inhibitors in patients with symptomatic obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and updated guidance on preventive vaccination strategies, including influenza, pneumococcal, COVID-19, herpes zoster and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccines.

On the role of GLP-1 receptor agonists in patients with heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF) and obesity, the Guidelines continue to support their use but have been refined to reflect ongoing discussions regarding patient-reported outcomes and the need for additional long-term data.

A distinctive feature of all iCARDIO Alliance Guidelines remains their focus on implementation. Recommendations are accompanied by practical considerations for healthcare systems with varying levels of resources, helping clinicians translate evidence into real-world care.

The 2026 Global Heart Failure Guideline Update was developed by an international writing group chaired by Professor Vijay Chopra, Senior Director – Clinical Cardiology, Heart Failure and Research, at Max Super Specialty Hospital, Saket, New Delhi. Writing group members and peer reviewers of the document represented multiple regions. The document also underwent a Public Review process, with more than 40 responses received from around the globe.

“As with all iCARDIO Guidelines, the 2026 edition of the Global Heart Failure Guidelines reflects a truly global effort, bringing together 56 authors from 25 countries across six continents,” noted Professor Chopra, “Our aim is not only to provide evidence-based recommendations, but to offer practical guidance that can support clinicians, healthcare systems and policymakers in improving heart failure care and outcomes, regardless of where patients live or the resources available to them,” he said.

The breadth of international expertise and the extensive peer and public reviews underpin the Guideline’s commitment to practical, globally relevant recommendations.

All iCARDIO Guidelines, including the 2025 Heart Failure Guidelines and the 2026 Update, are accessible by open access through the website of the journal [Global Cardiology](#) and via [the iCARDIO Alliance website](#). The 2026 Heart Failure Guidelines will be re-published in several other journals in the coming months.

###

For more information or media inquiries, please contact:

Doune Porter

Communications Manager

+33 6 52 69 55 54

dporter@icardio.org

<https://icardioalliance.org/>

Available for interviews:

Shelley Zieroth – Chair of the Guidelines Advisory Board of the iCARDIO Alliance

szieroth@sbgh.mb.ca +1 (204) 298-7807

Fausto Pinto – Chair of the Guidelines Advisory Board of the iCARDIO Alliance

faustopin@gmail.com +351 966 046 210

Stefan Anker – Member of the Heart Failure Task Force

s.anker@cachexia.de +49 151 253 315 14

About the iCARDIO Alliance

The [iCARDIO Alliance](#) is a global collaborative initiative that brings together leading cardiovascular societies and experts from every region of the world. Guided by an advisory board of internationally recognized [specialists](#), its mission is to improve patient outcomes through international cooperation, equitable practices, and the development of practical clinical guidelines that are applicable and implementable across diverse healthcare and economic settings.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), and [Bluesky](#)