



HFA
Heart Failure
Association

Welcome to the ICARe-HF programme

Pre-accreditation criteria
for Specialised Quality of
Care Centres (QCCs)

DEFINITIONS

ICARe-HF: Improving Care through Accreditation and Recognition in Heart Failure

Specialised Quality of Care Centres (QCCs) will manage patients referred from community QCCs for further aetiological diagnostic assessment and treatment, as well as acute/decompensated HF patients of intermediate complexity. They will involve district hospitals with intensive care units and cardiac catheterization facilities. The availability of electrophysiology and device implantation capacity will be strongly recommended.

QCC Director: the QCC director is the director of the centre/institution.

QCC Coordinator: the QCC Coordinator is the local HF expert within the centre/institution.

PRE-ACCREDITATION CRITERIA FOR “SPECIALISED” QUALITY OF CARE CENTRES

The application must be submitted in English

IMPORTANT:

The QCC director **MUST** either have an HFA Gold membership or be a Fellow of the HFA (FHFA) for the pre-accreditation application to be valid.

You can purchase a Gold Member membership on the following link:

[HFA Membership and Communities](#)

Please provide all the documents listed below:

All documents must be provided in English. Any document in local language must be accompanied by an English translation.

- Curriculum vitae of specialised QCC medical personnel
- An official document confirming that the specialised QCC adheres to HFA/ESC accreditation requirements, and that all information provided in the pre-accreditation form is accurate. - This document must be signed by the QCC coordinator and QCC director
- Letter of support from your National Heart Failure Society or Working group
- A motivation letter to outline why your centre is a good candidate for accreditation and any relevant details for the attention of the accreditation committee - This letter must be signed by the QCC coordinator and QCC director

Information: The platform limits the number of attachments to 10 documents. If you have more than 10 documents to upload, please send us the remaining ones to icarehf@escardio.org.

NB: To limit the number of attachments, all CVs can be merged into one PDF file.

Please note random audits can be conducted to examine the reported data.

General information on the centre

Centre name*:

This is the "official name" that will appear on your certificate.

City*:

Country*:

Year of establishment of your centre*:

Type of centre*:

Centre website link (if any):

Please indicate the URL link here in case your centre has any dedicated webpage

Generic email to contact your centre (if any):

QCC Management information

Name of the QCC Director*:

*The QCC director is the director of the centre/institution
Please indicate his/her first name and his/her last name*

ESC ID of the QCC Director*

HFA Membership of the QCC Director*

I understand that the QCC Director must have an HFA Gold Membership or be a Fellow of the HFA (FHFA) for the pre-accreditation application to be valid.

Name of the QCC Coordinator*:

*The QCC Coordinator is the local HF expert within the centre/institution
Please indicate his/her first name and his/her last name*

More about you

Your first name and your last name:*

Your position/role within the QCC*:

Your email to be used in future communications*:

Your phone number:

Specific pre-accreditation criteria for Specialised Quality of Care Centres

SECTION 1 – SERVICE PORTFOLIO, FACILITIES, AND EQUIPMENT

Mandatory criteria

1 – Outpatient services (rooms)

Your centre has examination beds for the management of outpatients with mild acute/decompensated HF*:(Mandatory criterion except for outpatient centres) Yes No

Your centre has the equipment for monitoring of oxygen saturation*: Yes No

Your centre has the equipment for monitoring of cardiac rate and rhythm*: Yes No

Your centre has the equipment for monitoring non-invasive blood pressure*: Yes No

Your centre has resuscitation facility (e.g. automated external defibrillator)*: Yes No

2 - Coronary care unit

Your centre has a coronary care unit/intensive care unit with beds available for patients with acute/decompensated HF*: Yes No

3 - Hospitalized patients with HF in cardiology/internal medicine wards

Your center has rooms for the treatment of hospitalized patients with HF in cardiology/internal medicine wards*: Yes No

4 - Invasive and interventional services

Your centre can perform cardiac catheterization and emergency percutaneous coronary interventions (24h/7days)*: Yes No

Your centre can perform permanent pacemaker implantation/electronic control facility*:

Yes No

Optional criteria

Your centre can perform ICD/CRT implantation/electronic control*: Yes No

Your centre can perform electrophysiology with the capability of catheter ablation of cardiac arrhythmias*: Yes No

5 - Diagnostic tools (equipment and services)

Mandatory criteria

Your centre can perform ECG*: Yes No

Your centre can perform blood pressure measurement*: Yes No

Your centre can perform the below list of laboratory analyses (available within 24 h)*: Yes No

- Blood count
- Biochemistry
- Arterial Blood gases
- Troponin
- Natriuretic peptides
- Serum iron, ferritin, transferrin saturation
- Thyroid hormones
- HbA1c

Your centre can perform transthoracic echocardiography*: Yes No

Your centre can perform transoesophageal echocardiography*: Yes No

Your centre can perform stress-echocardiography*: Yes No

Your centre can perform diastolic stress testing*: Yes No

Your centre can perform 24-h ambulatory ECG monitoring*: Yes No

Your centre can perform 24-h ambulatory blood pressure monitoring*: Yes No

Your centre can perform complete lung function tests*: Yes No

Optional criteria

Please indicate below if your centre has the following diagnostic equipment and services:

Cardiopulmonary exercise testing (ergo-spirometry)*: Yes No

Cardiac computed tomography/coronary artery computed tomography angiography*: Yes No

Cardiac magnetic resonance*: Yes No

Cardiac single-photon emission computed tomography*: Yes No

SECTION 2 - HUMAN RESOURCES

Your centre has a specialised QCC coordinator*: Yes No

A QCC Coordinator is a medical doctor (cardiologist) in charge of the QCC, with experience in HF (certified by publications, titles, etc.)

Your centre has a team of at least two additional medical doctors (cardiologists), trained in HF management, assigned to the QCC*: Yes No

Your centre has at least three nurses assigned to the QCC, trained in HF care*: Yes No

Availability of other specialists*:

- Nephrologist
- Endocrinologist
- Diabetologist
- Pulmonologist
- Cardiac surgeon
- Others (please specify):

Please list below all the medical personnel involved in HF management (cardiologist(s), nurses, specialist(s)...)*

Example:

First name LAST NAME - Cardiologist

First name LAST NAME - Nephrologist

First name LAST NAME - Nurse

Please note all their curriculum vitae must be provided.

SECTION 3 - PROCESS MEASURES

Mandatory criteria

Your centre is inserted in a network of collaboration with Community and Advanced HF Units*: Yes No

Your centre has care pathways (protocols) that adhere to current HFA/ESC guidelines and position papers*: Yes No

Your centre has care pathways that define all aspects of patient management:* Yes No

Including:

- *For outpatient services*
 - *Appointment system (please indicate the name of the one you use)*
- *For inpatients:*
 - *Admission*
 - *In-hospital management*
 - *Pre-discharge assessment*
 - *Post-discharge follow-up plan*
- *Collaboration/consultation protocol with the referring Community QCC*
- *Referral pathway to the advanced QCC*

Please provide a description of care pathways (protocols) in place in your centre for HF patient management*:

Optional criterion:

Your centre has care pathways (protocols) for:*

- Nurse home visits
- Telemonitoring
- Palliative care
- N/A

SECTION 4 - PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Mandatory criteria

Please indicate the number of HF patients treated in your centre per year*:

Please indicate the number of cardiac catheterizations procedures performed in your centre per year*:

Please indicate the number of PCI procedures performed in your centre per year*:

Please indicate the number of pacemaker implantations performed in your centre per year*:

Please indicate the number of ICD implantations performed in your centre per year*:

Please indicate the number of CRT-P/D implantations performed in your centre per year*:

Please indicate the total number of electrophysiology procedures performed in your centre per year*:

Has your centre any university affiliation?* Yes No

Is your centre currently participating in national and/or international HF studies/registries?
Or has participated in the past?* Yes No

If yes, please specify name and number of enrolled patients for each of your participation in HF registries or studies*

Do you have any other relevant accreditation? Yes No

General comments

GENERAL COMMENTS

Mandatory to obtain ICARE-HF accreditation

- I, confirm that my centre will enroll in the GRASP-HF*

- If my centre receives pre-accreditation, I understand that it will be listed on the ESC website as an HFA [pre-accredited ICARE-HF Quality of Care Centre](#). Its name and contact details will also be made available to applicants of the [HFA Grants programme](#) looking for a host centre.

- I, declare that all information provided in this document are correct and reflect the current state of services, facilities, equipment, and resources available in my centre*

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The information collected in the Pre-accreditation form for Specialised Quality of Care Centres is subject to data processing to grant accreditation to centres.

The recipients of the data is the European Society of Cardiology.

Data collected will be kept for 10 years.

The completion of this declaration in full and submission is mandatory for all persons requiring the ICARE-HF accreditation. In accordance with the chapter 3 of the European Regulation 2016/679 with regards to data protection, you have the right to request from ESC, access to and rectification or erasure of your personal data or restriction of processing concerning your data or to object to processing as well as the right to data portability.

For such, please contact dataprivacy@escardio.org (be aware that a proof of identity will be requested during the process via a secured web link).

You have the right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority, and for information, ESC has appointed a Data Protection Officer that you can reach at dpo@escardio.org