

# Adult Cardiac Congestive Heart Failure / Pulmonary Edema

**Designation of Condition:** The patient will present with shortness of breath and rales (wet noisy respirations/crackles). Pink frothy sputum is a classic sign but usually absent. The patient will often appear anxious, pale, clammy and acutely dyspneic/tachypneic. Individuals will avoid recumbency and attempt to sit upright. Signs of right heart failure may also be present (jugular venous distention and dependent edema). Most patients will have a history of CHF, but if not, consider an acute, concomitant precipitating cause (e.g., cardiac ischemia or valvular failure)

If the patient decompensates and shows signs and symptoms of hypoperfusion, possibly accompanied by hypotension (BP <90 mmHg), shortness of breath, and other indicators of hypoperfusion such as confusion, decreasing LOC, and diaphoresis, consider Cardiogenic Shock

