Heart Care Zones



Franciscan Heart Center

EVERY DAY

- Weight: Weigh yourself in the morning after emptying your bladder, before getting dressed, and before breakfast. Write it down and compare to yesterday's weight. Bring this record to your doctor visit.
- Medications: Take your medications as prescribed
- Symptoms: Check for swelling in your feet, legs, stomach or hands
- Diet: Eat low salt foods; limit total salt per day to 2,000 mg or less
- Activity: Balance your daily activities with rest
- Blood pressure and pulse: Take your blood pressure and pulse each day at the same time and record it. Bring this record to your doctor visit.

What zone are you in today? Green, Yellow, or Red?

Green Zone

This is where you want to be

- No shortness of breath
- No weight gain of more than two pounds
- No swelling
- No decrease in the amount of activity you are able to do

If each is true, no action is needed.

- Your heart failure is under control
- Keep weighing yourself every day
- · Keep taking your medications
- Stay on a low salt diet
- Keep your doctor appointments

Yellow Zone

Call doctor today

- Weight gain of three pounds in one day or five pounds in one week
- Swelling increases
- Shortness of breath increases
- You need more pillows to sleep or have to start sleeping in a chair.
- Cough increases
- New or worsening dizziness
- Chest pain
- Feeling more tired, energy level decreases
- Anything else that is not normal for you

You need to call your doctor today if you have any of these symptoms.

Doctor name:

Doctor phone number:

Red Zone

Emergency Call 9-1-1

- Shortness of breath that will not go away
- Chest pain that will not go away
- Wheezing or chest tightness, even when you rest
- Confusion or inability to think clearly

If you have ANY of these symptoms, you need to see a doctor right away

CALL 9-1-1 IMMEDIATELY

Don't take yourself to the doctor or have someone else drive you.