## **Launch of new clinical guidelines**

The National Heart Foundation of Australia together with the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand has launched two new clinical guidelines.

* National Heart Foundation of Australia and Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand: **Australian clinical guidelines for the diagnosis and management of atrial fibrillation** 2018 [Access the guideline on the HF Website](https://www.heartfoundation.org.au/for-professionals/clinical-information/atrial-fibrillation?_ga=2.225027738.1803999941.1533509869-1932048930.1529465258)
* National Heart Foundation of Australia and Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand: **Guidelines for the Prevention, Detection, and Management of Heart Failure in Australia** 2018 [Access the guideline on the HF Website](https://www.heartfoundation.org.au/for-professionals/clinical-information/heart-failure)

These clinical guidelines assist health professionals to prevent, detect and manage atrial fibrillation and heart failure and are used by practising clinicians across all disciplines, including doctors, nurses, pharmacists and allied health professionals.  Each guideline includes evidence-based recommendations that cover diagnosis, prevention, and management.

The atrial fibrillation guidelines are the first Australian guidelines on this topic. The heart failure guidelines to replace the 2011 update of the National Heart Foundation of Australia/Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (NHFA/CSANZ) Guidelines for the prevention, detection and management of chronic heart failure in Australia.

**How clinical guidelines are developed**

The guidelines were solely funded by the Heart Foundation and the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand. Development of each guideline is approximately a two-year project. Each guideline is written by approximately 15 experts from around the country including cardiologists, GPs, physicians, nurses and consumers.

We have held multiple meetings with the writing groups, gained feedback from multidisciplinary expert reference groups on multiple occasions, held 3 weeks of public consultation (1000s of downloads and 100s of items of feedback), gained approval from the Clinical Issues Committee and Cardiovascular Health Advisory Committee twice, as well as approval by the board.

The Policy and Evidence team in Melbourne have managed the development of these guidelines.

**The heart failure working group** involved in the development of the guideline comprises a multidisciplinary group of experts including cardiologists (and electrophysiologists), nurses, general practitioners, a clinical pharmacologist and general physician, an exercise health and professional epidemiologist, and a consumer representative.

**The atrial fibrillation working group** involved in the development of the guidelines comprises a multidisciplinary group of experts including cardiologists (including electrophysiologists), an epidemiologist and physician, a pharmacist, nurses, a consumer, general practitioners, a neurologist, and a cardiothoracic surgeon.

**Launch activities**

These two guidelines were each published in *Heart, Lung, Circulation* (full guideline) and *Medical Journal of Australia* (executive summary) on 2 August. They were also presented at the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting over the weekend, attended by 2,500 health professionals from Australia and abroad and generating significant media attention.

The following videos were recorded at the CSANZ conference by Medicine Today.

AF Guidelines: <https://vimeo.com/283289298>

HF Guidelines: <https://vimeo.com/283292345>