

# Improved risk stratification in chest pain

## HEART Impact trial with stepped wedge design

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### Study aim:

To evaluate the real-life clinical impact of the HEART risk score in chest pain patients

**Background:** Although over the years many risk stratification tools and protocols have been developed, chest pain remains a diagnostic problem. The extensively validated HEART risk score provides rapid and accurate risk stratification for developing major adverse cardiac events (MACE).

**Design:** Prospective, multicenter, stepped wedge cluster randomized trial (planned sample size N=6600). Hospitals are randomized when to switch from usual care to the use of the HEART score.

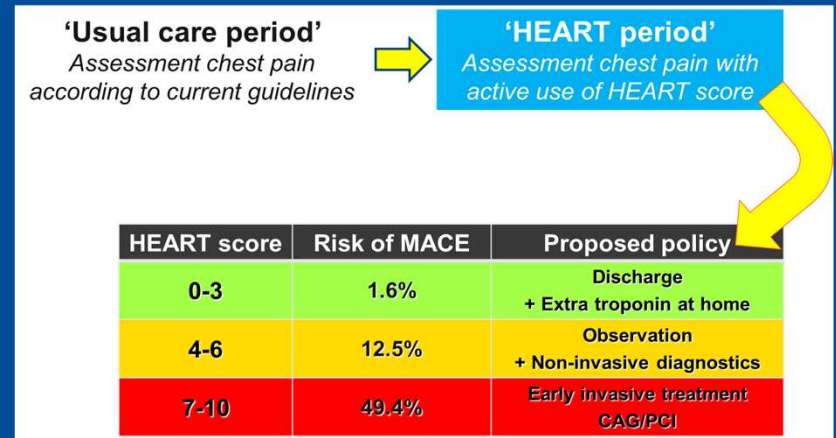
**Setting:** Emergency Department of 9 Dutch hospitals.

**Time:** Patient inclusion for the duration of 1 year.

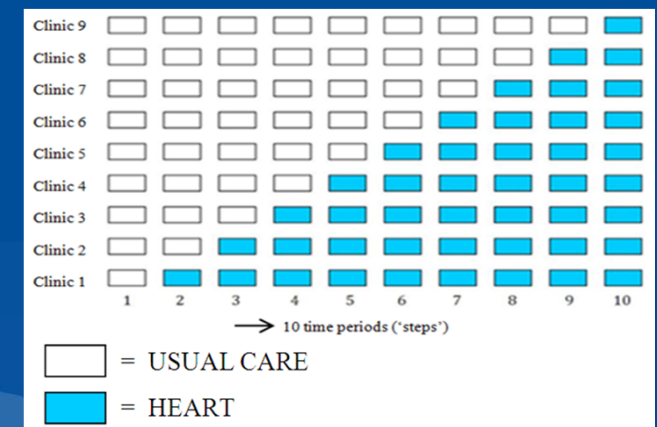
**Outcomes:** 6-weeks occurrence of MACE, quality of life and cost-effectiveness.

### Potential advantages HEART Impact trial:

- (a) Large pragmatic trial evaluating impact on patient outcomes and their management;
- (b) Comparison within hospitals between usual care and HEART score;
- (c) Early recognition of potential implementation problems;
- (d) Each hospital will experience the intervention under study, thereby enhancing participation.



Proposed policy during HEART period



Stepped Wedge Design