



Heart Failure: Tracking Your Weight

You have a condition called heart failure (also known as congestive heart failure, or CHF). When you have heart failure, a sudden weight gain or a steady rise in weight is a warning sign that your body is retaining too much water and salt. This could mean your heart failure is getting worse. Weighing yourself each day is the best way to know if you're retaining water. If your weight goes up quickly, call your doctor. You will be given instructions on how to get rid of the excess water. This will help your heart work better.

Call your doctor if you gain more than 2 pounds in 1 day, or more than 5 pounds in 1 week, or whatever weight gain you were told to report by your doctor. This is often a sign of worsening heart failure. Your doctor will tell you what to do next.

Tips for weighing yourself

Month _____		Start Date _____				
S	M	T	W	T	F	S

- Weigh yourself at the same time each morning, wearing the same clothes. Weigh yourself after urinating and before eating.
- Use the same scale each day. Put it on a flat, hard surface — not on a rug or carpet.
- Do not stop weighing yourself. If you forget one day, weigh again the next morning.

How to use your weight chart

- Keep your weight chart near the scale. Write your weight on the chart as soon as you get off the scale.
- Fill in the month and the start date on the chart. Then write down your weight each day. Your chart will look like this:

Month <u>August</u>		Start Date <u>1</u>				
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	155	154	155	157	157	156

- If you miss a day, leave the space blank. Weigh yourself the next day and write your weight in the next space.
- Take your weight chart with you when you go to see your doctor.

