

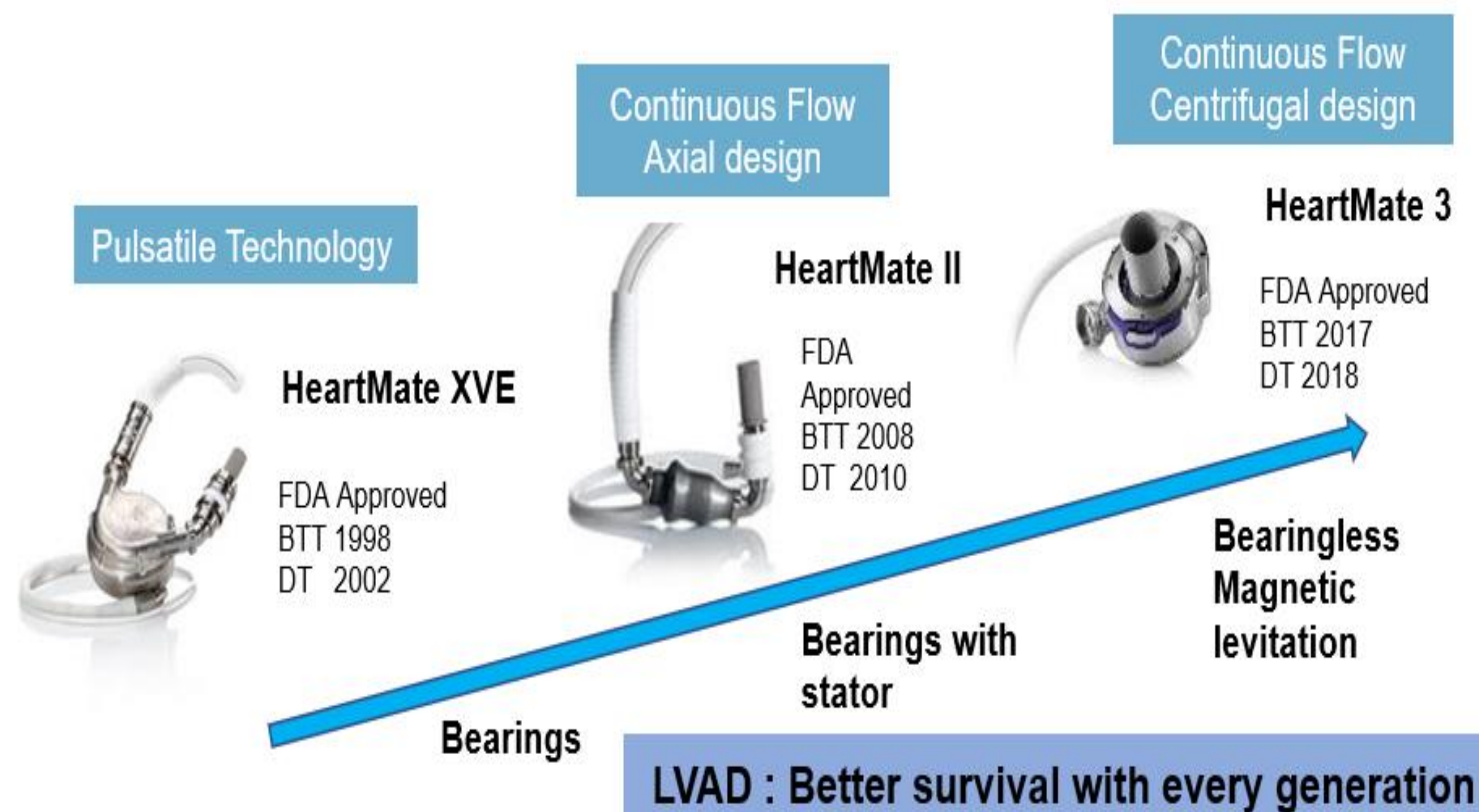
Introduction

- Heart Failure is projected to grow from 6.2 million to 8 million by 2030
- About 5-10% progress to advanced stages requiring heart transplant
- However, there is a lack of heart donors and LVADs evolved to fill this gap
- Over the past 2 decades, LVAD technology improved, and new generation devices show better survival and quality of life



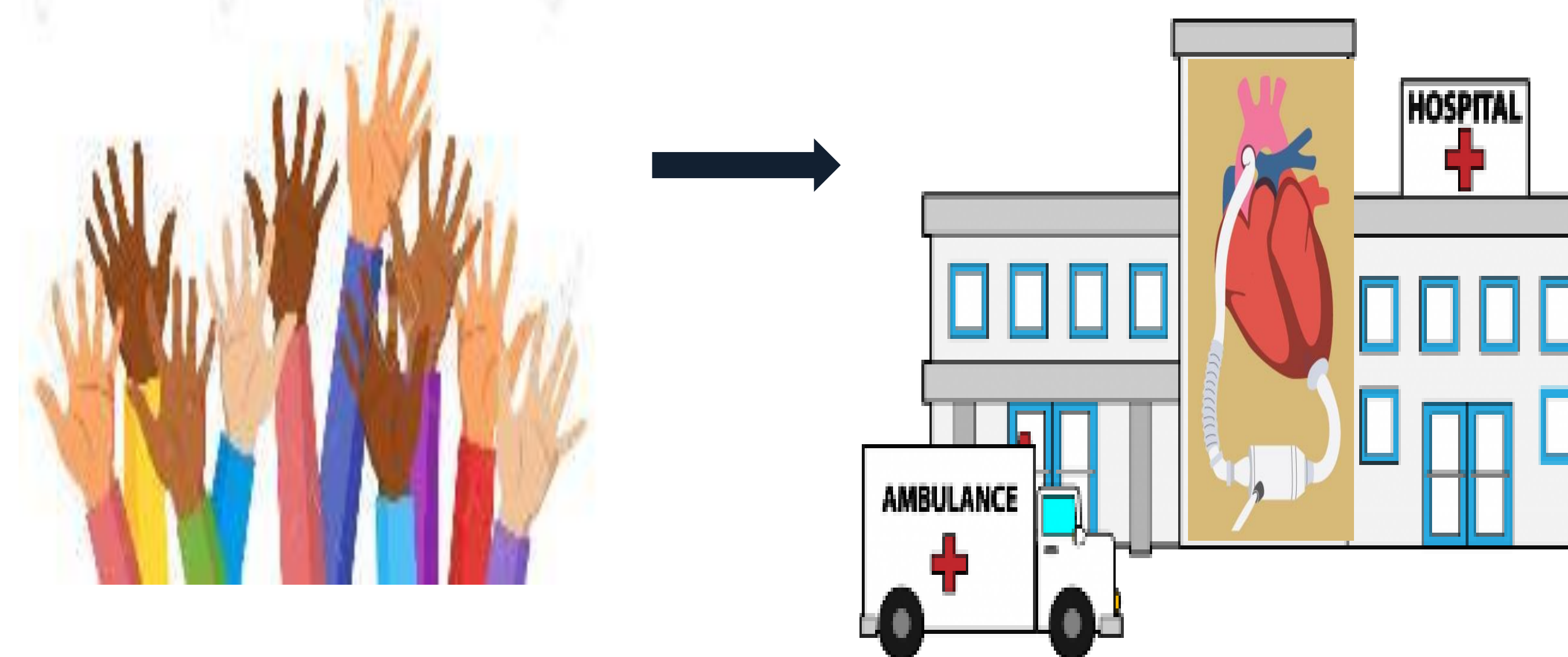
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- Currently LVAD programs are mostly confined to large urban academic centers leading to disparities in care
- Most community hospitals are unaware of the process involved in starting their own LVAD program
- No resources are currently available that describes process



Needs Assessment

- Despite having more prevalent heart failure, women and African-Americans have less implants
- Having more local LVAD centers increases access to care and may reduce racial/gender disparities
- A comprehensive guidebook would assist any medical professional who wants to develop an LVAD program in their community



Purpose

The purpose of this project was to review the data supporting the use of LVADs in patients with advanced heart failure and to create a comprehensive guidebook that outlines the process of establishing an LVAD program in a community hospital.

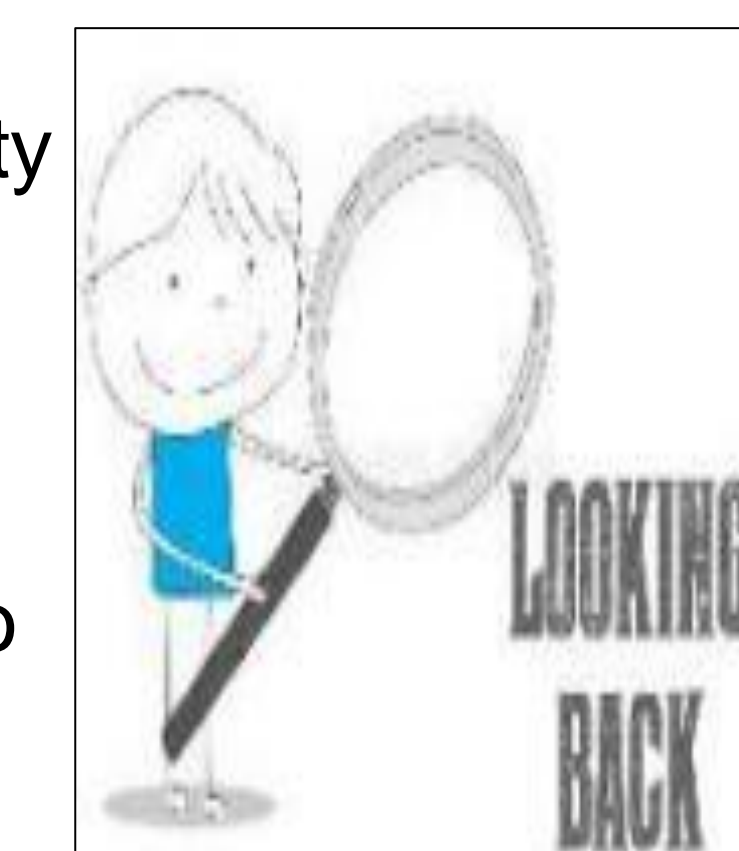
Objectives

Create a comprehensive guidebook that:

- Explains how to analyze existing gaps and determine the need for an LVAD program
- Outlines the basic requirements needed to apply for CMS certification
- Identifies key members required for a multidisciplinary LVAD team
- Enumerates the needed LVAD forms, clinical practice guidelines and order sets
- Describes the quality assurance and performance improvement processes required by certifying bodies.

Methodology

- Retrospective analysis of my experience in establishing a new LVAD program in a community hospital
- Listed the strategies I utilized in creating our program and converted them into a guidebook to aid other providers



Guidebook Chapters

Chapter	Content
1	Determining need for an LVAD program
2	Enlisting administrative support
3	Gap Analysis
4	CMS certification process
5	Policies and procedures
6	Patient selection and Management
7	Equipment purchase and inventory
8	Training requirements for hospital staff
9	Quality assurance management
10	Maintaining a successful and profitable program
Appendix with sample LVAD forms, policies, patient satisfaction survey and order sets	

Results

- Completed guidebook reviewed by an LVAD expert from device company and received excellent feedback
- Guidebook utilized by a new RN LVAD coordinator in Georgia and found it as a great resource tool in establishing their LVAD program

Implications

- Guidebook will help assess the need and feasibility of starting an LVAD program in an institution
- Outlines the necessary steps to create clinical practice guidelines and policies, and identify quality assurance and performance improvement (QAPI) metrics to start an LVAD program
- Will assist an LVAD trained APN or RN prepare for CMS survey and program certification
- Could serve as a template for program-building for novice leaders in the field of heart failure

References



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