Patients aged 65 years or over who presented themselves the year before with shortness of breath on exertion, selected from the GPs 'EMF

Exclusion of those with established HF, a life expectancy < 6 months, or not able to sign IC

Diagnostic assessment: history taking, physical examination, NTproBNP level, electrocardiogram

Participants with abnormal electrocardiogram or NTproBNP level ≥ 125 pg/ml

Participants with normal electrocardiogram and NTproBNP level < 125 pg/ml

Echocardiography

Participants in which panel ruled out HF

Participants in which panel established HF

Patients with a treatable cause for HF referred to cardiologist

Patients managed by ‘trained’ GPs

Patients managed by GPs with care as usual