2: Beta blockers, take the next step for heart failure - Rate of use of beta blockers by those with heart failure

Pre-intervention period: Mar 2003 - Feb 2005. Monthly change: 1.017 (1.015-1.019) p<0.0001. This means that the number of veterans with CHF using a beta blocker was increasing by 1.7% per month pre-intervention.

Intervention period: Mar 2005 – Jun 2005. Change in use: 1.07 (1.04-1.10) p<0.0001. This means that the number of veterans with CHF using beta blockers increased by 7% at the time of the intervention.

Post-intervention period: Jul 2005 – Mar 2007. Monthly change (relative to pre-intervention): 0.989 (0.986-0.991) p<0.0001.

This means that the number of veterans with CHF using beta blockers was decreasing by 1.1% per month compared to the pre-intervention trend i.e. overall, post-intervention the number of veterans with CHF dispensed beta blockers increased by 0.6% each month.

Overall effect: 642 additional veterans with CHF were dispensed beta blockers as a result of the intervention.