Table 2

Summary of heart failure management

Functional Status	Medical therapy to be considered	Device therapy
Asymptomatic NYHA* class I	● ACE inhibitor (if intolerant, substitute with angiotensin-II receptor antagonist or hydralazine/isosorbide dinitrate combination) ● ß-blocker ● Diuretic	ICD† implantation if: ● Ventricular arrhythmia and haemodynamic instability ● Successful cardiac resuscitation
Symptoms with moderate activity NYHA* class II	As above plus: ● Digoxin if symptomatic ● Amlodipine if further vasodilation required	As above plus: ● Ejection fraction ≤ 35%
Symptoms with mild activity NYHA* class III	As above plus: ● Aldosterone antagonist (spironolactone) ● Digoxin ● If Afro-Carribbean, hydralazine/isosorbide dinitrate combination	As above plus: ● If interventricular conduction delay or dyssynchrony, consider cardiac resynchronisation therapy
Symptoms at rest NYHA* class IV	As above plus: ● Consider inotrope infusion, ventricular assist device, cardiac transplantation	As above

*NYHA: New York Heart Association

†ICD: implantable cardioverter defibrillator