approach to a diagnosis-based order set that allows providers to differentiate between severe respiratory failure, and shortness of breath with or without chest pain (figure 4). The order sets are built to facilitate rapid assessment and accelerate the treatment of HF in the ED setting; taking into consideration, different management needs and the spectrum of diseases contributing to HF.

Risk Stratification

The clinical decision guide assists the health care provider to immediately risk stratifies the patient in such a way that facilitates the determination of need for either admission and / or further treatment in the ED. This strategy is based on information obtained from clinical assessment of hemodynamics (signs of congestion/perfusion), and preliminary diagnostic and laboratory testing, heavily weighting the BNP level. By selecting the range that corresponds to a patients BNP level, the resulting decision menu guides the user to stratify the patient into high versus moderate risk, and triage accordingly.

If patients present with acute heart failure and evidence of acute myocardial injury (positive cardiac markers and/or ECG), providers click Yes to shortness of breath with chest pain and are immediately directed to the specialized Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) treatment.