

Heart Disease/CHF

Basic Requirements:

1. **New York Heart Association Class IV CHF:** Symptoms at rest such as dyspnea, orthopnea, PND, edema, syncope, profound weakness, or chest pain. (See Appendix 1)

OR

Severe Aortic Stenosis: with orthostatic hypotension, falls and functional loss

OR

Class III CHF: (comfortable only at rest/marked limitation of any activity)

AND any 2 of the following:

- Hospitalization for CHF in the last year
- Stage 3 CKD with GFR <45
- Systolic BP <100 or resting HR >100
- Anemia with Hgb <12
- Hyponatremia with sodium <132
- Limited functional ability (PPS 40% or less) (See Appendix 2)
- Pleural effusion or ascites requiring diuretics
- History of cardiac arrest or resuscitation
- Cardiac cachexia (weight loss 5% in the last 6 months)
- Treatment-resistant dysrhythmias

AND

2. Maximally medically managed or unable to tolerate further medication management

AND

3. No plans for surgical or other cardiac interventions

Supporting evidence for hospice eligibility:

- Echo demonstrating an ejection fraction of 20% or less
- History of unexplained or cardiac related syncope
- CVA secondary to cardiac embolism

In the absence of one or more of these findings, rapid decline or comorbidities may also support eligibility for hospice care.