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.