

## 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.**