

## Medical Guidelines For Determining Appropriateness For Hospice

### CARDIAC DISEASE

**Patient Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ID #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Is patient a candidate for a heart transplant: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

1. Does the patient have symptoms and signs of congestive heart failure at rest? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

*Check all that apply:*

Symptoms	Signs
<input type="checkbox"/> dyspnea at rest: "Short winded", "Can't breathe"	<input type="checkbox"/> diaphoresis: sweating
<input type="checkbox"/> dyspnea on exertion: "Can't breathe with exercise"	<input type="checkbox"/> cachexia: profound weight loss
<input type="checkbox"/> orthopnea: "Can't breathe lying down"	<input type="checkbox"/> jugulovenous distension (JVD)
<input type="checkbox"/> paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea (PND): "Waking up at night short of breath"	<input type="checkbox"/> neck veins distended above clavicle
<input type="checkbox"/> edema "Swollen ankles, legs"	<input type="checkbox"/> rales: wet crackles in lungs heard on inspiration
<input type="checkbox"/> syncope	<input type="checkbox"/> gallop rhythm: S3, S4
<input type="checkbox"/> weakness	<input type="checkbox"/> liver enlargement
<input type="checkbox"/> chest pain	<input type="checkbox"/> edema, pitting edema

2. Has the physician verified that the patient is on optimal diuretic and vasodilator therapy? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

3. Patients with CHF or Angina should meet **the Class IV** criteria of the NYHA classification

4. Significant CHF may be documented by an ejection fraction of less than or equal to 20% but is not required if not already available

Diuretics (patient should be on optimal dose following). *Check all that apply:*

Furosemide (Lasix)

Ethacrynic Acid (Edecrin)

Bumetanide (Bumex)

Torsemide (Demedex)

Metolazone (Zarloxlyn, Mykrox) Note: Must be combined with any of the above, Not used alone.

Vasodilators (patient should be on optimal dose of one of the following). *Check all that apply:*

A. Nitrates (e.g., Nitro patch, Isosorbide) plus Hydralazine \_\_\_

B. Apressoline Angiotensin Converting Enzyme (ACE) Inhibitor:

Benazepril (Lotensin)

Lisinopril (Prinivil, Zestril)

Captopril (Capoten)

Quinapril (Accupril)

Enalapril (Vasotec)

Ramipril (Altace)

Fosinopril (Monopril)

5. The following factors are further indications of decreased survival time. *Check all that apply:*

symptomatic supraventricular or ventricular arrhythmias resistant to antiarrhythmic therapy

history of cardiac arrest and resuscitation in any setting

history of syncope of any cause, cardiac or otherwise

Cardiogenic brain embolism, i.e., embolic CVA of cardiac origin

Concomitant HIV disease

### **New York Heart Association (NYHA) Functional Classification**

- Class I: patients with no limitation of activities; they suffer no symptoms from ordinary activities.
- Class II: patients with slight, mild limitation of activity; they are comfortable with rest or with mild exertion.
- Class III: patients with marked limitation of activity; they are comfortable only at rest.
- Class IV: patients who should be at complete rest, confined to bed or chair; any physical activity brings on discomfort and symptoms occur at rest.

RN Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_