

# Qualifying Hospice Guidelines for Cardiac Disease



## **Heart Disease:**

### **Data from both 1 & 2 should be present to qualify for hospice care**

1.  Patient has been optimally treated for heart disease. If not on vasodilator pt has a medical reason for refusing these drugs: (hypotension or renal disease).  
 Patient not a candidate for surgical procedure **OR**  
 Patient declines surgical procedure
2.  Patient should meet criteria for NYHA Class IV. Significant CHF may be documented by an ejection of <20% but not required if not readily available

### **NYHA Functional Class**

- Class IV (Severe) Unable to carry out any physical activity without discomfort. Symptoms of cardiac insufficiency at rest. If any physical activity is undertaken, discomfort is increased.
- Class III (Moderate) Marked limitation of physical activity. Comfortable at rest, but less than ordinary activity causes fatigue, palpitation, or dyspnea (shortness of breath).
- Class II (Mild) Slight limitation of physical activity. Comfortable at rest, but ordinary physical activity results in fatigue, palpitation, or dyspnea
- Class I (Mild) No limitation of physical activity. Ordinary physical activity does not cause undue fatigue, palpitation, or dyspnea.

### **Supporting data (not required)**

- Tx resistant symptomatic supraventricular or ventricular arrhythmias
- Hx of cardiac arrest or resuscitation
- Hx of unexplained syncope
- Brain embolism of cardiac origin
- Concomitant HIV disease

Information obtained from: [ngsmedicare.com/NGSMedicare/lcd/L25678\\_active\\_lcd.htm](http://ngsmedicare.com/NGSMedicare/lcd/L25678_active_lcd.htm) dated 6.5.09. This sheet is designed as a fact-finding tool to help determine prognosis as it relates to making a hospice referral. This sheet is not intended to be used to formulate diagnosis and does not confirm/rule out hospice qualification. If the patient meets the factors below you may wish to make a referral to Hospice of Spokane. You may do so by calling 509.456.0438 or filling out the online referral form at <http://hospiceofspokane.org/admissions.html>.