

Hospice Indicators for Patients with Cardiac Disease

End-Stage Congestive Heart Failure

- ☐ New York Heart Association (NYHA) Class III, if any of the below symptoms present with less than normal daily activities (i.e., comfortable only at rest)
 - ☐ Fatigue
 - ☐ Palpitations
 - ☐ Angina or dyspnea with exercise
- ☐ NYHA Class IV manifested by:
 - ☐ Dyspnea and/or other symptoms at rest or with minimal exertion
 - ☐ Inability to carry on physical activity without dyspnea and/or other symptoms
 - ☐ If physical activity is undertaken, dyspnea and/or other symptoms worsen
- ☐ Being treated for congestive heart failure with diuretics and vasodilators or, due to hypotension or other side effects, inability to tolerate these medications

End-Stage Coronary Artery Disease

- ☐ Frequent or recurrent bouts of angina pectoris at rest or with minimal activity
- ☐ Remaining symptomatic despite standard nitrate therapy
- ☐ Not a candidate for or declines invasive procedures, such as:
 - ☐ Percutaneous angioplasty
 - ☐ Coronary artery bypass surgery

Common Comorbidities

- ☐ Cancer
- ☐ Cardiogenic brain embolism
- ☐ Concomitant HIV disease
- ☐ COPD
- ☐ Coronary artery disease
- ☐ CVA
- ☐ Diabetes
- ☐ Dementia
- ☐ Elevated cholesterol
- ☐ Hypertension
- ☐ Liver failure
- ☐ Renal failure

Other Indicators

- ☐ Ejection fraction of 20% or less
- ☐ Decline in Karnofsky Performance Status Scale from 70% or less
- ☐ Palliative Performance Scale from 70% or less
- ☐ Body Mass Index less than 22; unintentional weight loss or gain
- ☐ Comorbidities likely to contribute to a life expectancy of six months or less

Common Symptoms

- ☐ Shortness of breath or angina at rest or with minimal activity
- ☐ Shortness of breath in a reclined position
- ☐ Awakened by shortness of breath
- ☐ Increased frequency of ER visits or hospitalizations for symptom control
- ☐ Symptoms that persist even with optimal doses of diuretics, vasodilators, and/or ACE inhibitors
- ☐ Persistent signs and symptoms of chronic congestive heart failure
- ☐ History of cardiac arrest and resuscitation
- ☐ History of syncope from any cause
- ☐ Not a candidate for or declined surgical procedures
- ☐ Abnormal heart rhythms resistant to therapy
- ☐ Current inotropic therapy dose unable to be reduced
- ☐ Dependence in two or more ADLs
- ☐ Unexplained fainting
- ☐ Increased fatigue
- ☐ Neck vein distension



Ohio Living
Home Health & Hospice

24/7 Referrals P 855.579.4967 F 855.579.4968
ohioliving.org