All cardiac patients being referred to the palliative care team must have
1. Been reviewed by the Heart Failure team
2. Know they have a diagnosis of heart failure
3. Agreement of both patient and medical team to the referral

IN ADDITION one or more of the following merit referral:
1. Symptomatic (e.g. breathless at rest or on minimal exertion) despite optimal treatment
2. On optimal therapy but with continuing or deteriorating physical or psychological symptoms*
3. Heart failure patients when hospital admission may not be the best/only/preferred option, or for whom palliative care (hospice, day care, hospital inpatient or community care) may be of benefit, either immediately or in the future
4. Where the family or carer(s) would benefit from support, either immediately or in the future (including bereavement)
5. Where patient has had 2 or more previous admissions for heart failure within the last 6 months

*Where only psychological issues are present, consider referral to clinical psychologist.