

# Is Your Patient Eligible for Hospice Care?

Use this tool to assess if your patient is ready to begin hospice.

## General Hospice Readiness Indicators

- Needs help with activities of daily living (ADLs)
- Nausea, difficulty breathing, or fluid in lungs
- Serum albumin level below 2.5gm/dl
- Experiencing overall physical decline
- Worsening symptoms of a terminal progressive disease

**For disease-specific criteria, see below and back page:**

### Dementia & Alzheimer's

Stage 7 or beyond according to the FAST scale, including:

- Unable to walk/dress/bathe without assistance
- Urinary and fecal incontinence
- No consistently meaningful verbal communication

And one of the following within the past 12 months:

- Aspiration pneumonia, pyelonephritis, or septicemia
- Multiple pressure ulcers or 1 Stage 3-4
- Fever, recurrent after antibiotics
- Insufficient fluid and calorie intake

### Liver Disease

- PT > 5 sec, or INR > 1.5
  - Serum albumin < 2.5 gm/dl
- In combination with at least one of the following complications:

- Ascites despite maximum diuretics
- Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis
- Glomerular filtration rate (GFR) < 10 ml/min
- Hepatorenal syndrome
- Hepatic encephalopathy
- Recurrent variceal bleeding



**Our Hospice Care team can care for any kind of patient, at any point in their journey. We look forward to partnering with you every step of the way, from personalized care plans to caregiver support.**

### **Cancer**

- a PPS  $\leq$  60% ; Not a candidate for curative treatment; Metastatic Disease
- High symptom burden
- High risk for hospitalization
- Extreme fatigue
- Caregivers unable to manage the plan of care at home
- High degree of psycho-social distress

### **Acute Renal Failure/Chronic Kidney Disease**

No hemodialysis, no renal transplant

In combination with at least one of the following:

- Creatinine clearance  $< 10$  cc/min ( $<15$  cc/min with diabetes or CHF;  $<20$  cc/min with diabetes and CHF)
- Serum creatinine  $> 8.0$  mg/dl ( $>6.0$  mg/dl in diabetics)
- Signs and symptoms of uremia
- Intractable fluid overload
- Oliguria

### **Pulmonary Disease**

Progression of end stage pulmonary disease

- Dyspnea at rest or with minimal exertion
- Recurrent pulmonary infections
- Hypoxemia at rest on room air, oxygen saturation  $\leq 88\%$ , or Hypercapnia
- Right heart failure secondary to pulmonary disease and/or resting tachycardia  $>100$ /min

### **Cardiac Disease**

NYHA Class IV Heart Failure; angina

- Discomfort with physical activity
- Ejection fraction  $\leq 20\%$
- Arrhythmias resistant to treatment
- History of cardiac arrest or resuscitation
- Brain embolism of cardiac origin
- Medically optimized with cardiac meds or unable to tolerate
- Not a candidate for or declined surgical intervention

**Ready to refer?** Speak to your hospice liaison, call 212-609-1900  
or refer online at [vnshealth.org/hospicereferral](https://vnshealth.org/hospicereferral)

