

When to make a hospice referral...

These guidelines will help identify residents/patients with non-cancer diagnosis who may be eligible for hospice services. They are general guidelines only. If you think a resident/patient could benefit from our services, please call.

DEMENTIA/ALZHEIMER'S AND RELATED DX

- 1) Spends most of time in bed or chair
- 2) Requires assistance with most ADL's
- 3) Incontinent of bowel and/or bladder
- 4) Rarely makes self understood, or is unable to understand others
- 5) Other active diseases like heart disease, COPD, kidney failure, etc.
- 6) Emotional changes, agitation or delusional behavior
- 7) Recent infections, wt. loss, or decubitus ulcers

RENAL DISEASE

- 1) Not seeking dialysis or kidney transplant
- 2) Creatinine clearance or GFR < 10cc/min (<15cc/min with diabetes)
- 3) Elevated BUN and elevated creatinine
- 4) Cachexia or massive edema
- 5) Urine output of < 400cc/day

LIVER DISEASE

- 1) PT >5 seconds above control OR INR >1.5
- 2) Serum Albumin of ≤ 2.5 gm/dl
- 3) At least one of the following:
 - Elevated BUN and creatinine with decreased urinary output
 - Ascites
 - Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis
 - Hepatic encephalopathy
 - Recurrent variceal bleeding

HEART DISEASE

- 1) Poor response to optimal treatment with diuretics and vasodilators
- 2) Significant symptoms at rest and unable to carry on physical activity without symptoms
- 3) Chest pain at rest, resistant to nitrate therapy
- 4) History of cardiac arrest or resuscitation
- 5) Documentation of ejection fraction of 20% or less

PULMONARY DISEASE

- 1) Disabling dyspnea at rest or with minimal activity
- 2) Increased ER visits or hospitalizations for pulmonary diagnosis
- 3) Hypoxemia at rest on room air O2 sat < 89%, or PCO2 ≥ 50 mm/hg
- 4) Resting heartrate >100/min
- 5) Unintentional wt. loss of 10% or more over preceding 6 months

STROKE

- 1) Recent decline in functional status and/or significant change
- 2) Dependence in 3 or more of the following:
 - Bathing
 - Dressing
 - Feeding
 - Transfers
 - Toileting
- 3) Recent weight loss or impaired nutritional status, serum albumin < 2.5gm/dl, BMI < 22
- 4) Pulmonary aspiration events

ADULT FAILURE TO THRIVE OR OTHER

- 1) Patient or family informed of life-limiting condition and choosing comfort care
- 2) Requires significant assistance with ADLs
- 3) Spends most of time in bed or chair
- 4) Co-morbid or secondary conditions, such as:
 - a) pressure ulcers
 - b) recurrent infections
 - c) significant weight loss or BMI ≤ 22
 - d) serum albumin < 2.5gm/dl

Our goal in partnering with you is to help residents/patients live the rest of their lives as they wish, and to be comfortable physically, emotionally and spiritually. We provide holistic care for the family as well as the resident/patient. Those who do not meet all the listed guidelines but have co-morbidities or a decline may benefit from our service. Please call.

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- Home, Nursing Home Care
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& Spiritual Support
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