

Criteria for Hospice Appropriateness

<p>General Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> / Patient's illness is incurable and has a declining functional status / The patient/family have been informed that the patient's condition is terminal / The patient/family have elected treatment directed toward palliative care / Quality of life is currently unacceptable to the patient/family / Prognosis is for a life expectancy of approximately 6 months or less (if the disease runs its normal course)
<p>Observable clinical deterioration examples may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> / Unintentional weight loss – more than 10% over last 3 - 6 months / Decreased appetite/nutritional intake related to the terminal process / Decreased activity tolerance with restriction in activities of daily living / Decreased cognitive abilities / Multiple emergency room visits (3 or more) in last 3 - 6 months
<p>Disease Organ-Specific Examples</p>
<p>End-Stage Cardiopulmonary Disease:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> / Disabling dyspnea at rest or with minimal exertion, poorly responsive to bronchodilators / Recurrent congestive heart failure (NYHA Class IV) on optimal diuretic therapy / Presence of cor pulmonale / Recurrent pulmonary infections and/or respiratory failure / Chronic hypoxemia (less than 90%) at rest on supplemental oxygen / Chronic hypercapnia (pCO₂ more than 50 mm Hg) / Intractable angina / Resting tachycardia (more than 100/min) or symptomatic arrhythmias resistant to therapy
<p>End-Stage Neurologic Disease:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> / Severe Alzheimer's, stroke, Parkinson's, ALS, traumatic brain injury
<p>End-Stage Renal Disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> / Chronic dialysis patient/candidate who has chosen to refuse dialysis
<p>End-Stage Liver Disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> / Severe Ascites, esophageal varices, peripheral edema, jaundice, hepatic encephalopathy/coma
<p>End-Stage AIDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> / Severe weight loss, recurrent infections, increased debilitation requiring supportive care, has been on therapy and refusing therapy or has displayed resistance to available medications
<p>Malignant Disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> / Documented tissue diagnosis of malignant/metastatic disease. Incurable diagnosis and treatment is regarded most likely to be futile / Evidence of progressive cancer and treatment (even if available) is felt to be futile / Patient with curable disease but treatment is refused or cannot be tolerated. Or where treatment is for palliative reasons