

Is Your Patient Eligible for Hospice?

A checklist for clinicians including Emergency Department staff

General Hospice Eligibility Guidelines

Consider hospice if a patient meets 2 or more:

- Dependent in 2-3 of 6 ADLs
- SOB or fatigue at rest/minimal exertion
- Multiple ED visits or hospitalizations
- 10% weight loss in 6 months
- Recurrent falls with injury
- Decreased tolerance in physical activity

Diagnosis-Specific Hospice Eligibility Guidelines

Sepsis

- Hospice-eligible but not previously identified
- Prognosis worsens with the following complications:
- Vasopressors
 - Mechanical ventilation
 - Hyperlactemia
 - Acute kidney injury
 - Hepatic Injury
 - Thrombocytopenia

Alzheimer's Disease and other Dementias

Consider hospice if patient meets both:

- Dependent in 3/6 ADLs
- One of these complications:
 - Pneumonia
 - Recurrent UTI
 - Sepsis
 - Weight loss 10%
 - Two stage 3 or 4 pressure ulcers
 - Hip fracture
 - Swallowing difficult
 - Feeding tube decision
 - Delirium

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855.977.4042 or [VITAS.com/Referrals](https://www.vitas.com/Referrals)    

Lung Disease

Consider hospice if patient meets both:

- Dyspnea at rest and/or with minimal exertion while on oxygen therapy
- One of these disease progressions:
 - Frequent ED visits and/or hospitalizations
 - Cor pulmonale

Cancer

Consider hospice if patient meets both:

- Spend 50% of time in bed or chair during waking hours
- No longer pursuing chemotherapy and/or immunotherapy

Heart Disease

Consider hospice if patient meets all:

- NYHA Class III or IV (Fatigue, angina, or dyspnea at rest and/or with minimal exertion)
- Multiple ED visits and hospitalizations
- Not a surgical candidate

Liver Disease

Consider hospice if patient meets both:

- INR > 1.5 and serum albumin ≤ 2.5 g/dL
- One of these complications:
 - Recurrent ascites
 - Spontaneous Bacterial Peritonitis (SBP)
 - Hepatic encephalopathy
 - Variceal bleed
 - Weight loss 10%
 - HRS