## 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

#### 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

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To make a referral or get information: 855.977.4042 or VITAS.com/Referrals