

# Is Your Patient a Good Fit for VITAS?

## A hospice checklist for ED staff

### General Criteria for Hospice Eligibility:

- Dependent in 3/6 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

### Lung Disease:

- Disabling dyspnea:
  - SOB at rest/minimal exertion
  - Continuous oxygen or chronic oral steroids
- Progressive disease:
  - Frequent ED visits
  - Frequent hospitalizations
  - Cor pulmonale

### Cancer:

- ECOG 3:
  - Capable of limited self-care
  - Confined to bed or chair >50% of waking hours
- No longer receiving anti-tumor therapy

### HIV/AIDS:

- Viral load >100,000 copies/ml and/or CD4 <25 cells/mm
- Mainly sitting/lying
- Progressive disease:
  - HIV dementia
  - 10% weight loss in 6 months

- Opportunistic infections
- HIV-related cancer

### Liver Disease:

- INR >1.5 or serum albumin  $\leq 2.5$ g/dL with complication:
  - Recurrent ascites
  - SBP
  - Hepatic encephalopathy
  - Variceal bleed
  - Weight loss 10%
  - HRS

### Alzheimer's Disease:

- Dependent in 3/6 ADLs with complication:
  - Pneumonia
  - Recurrent UTI
  - Sepsis
  - Weight loss 10%
  - Two stage-3 or -4 pressure ulcers
  - Hip fracture
  - Swallowing difficulty
  - Feeding tube decision

### Heart Disease:

- Fatigue
- Palpitations
- Angina or dyspnea at rest or minimal exertion
- NYHA Class III or IV
- Ejection fraction <20% as a guide
- Not a surgical candidate

To make a referral or get information: **800.938.4827** or **VITAS.com/referral**

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