

5 Signs It's Time to Refer a Veteran to Hospice

Veterans nearing the end of life often face complex physical and emotional challenges — some tied to their service, others to advanced illness. Knowing when to refer to hospice can make all the difference in ensuring comfort, dignity and access to the benefits they've earned.

Signs it May Be Time to Refer to Hospice



Shortness of breath or fatigue at rest

Even minimal exertion causes distress, despite oxygen therapy.



Multiple emergency department visits or hospitalizations

Frequent acute episodes signal disease progression and unmet needs.



Significant weight loss

A drop of 10% or more in six months may indicate declining health.



Recurrent falls with injury

Increasing instability and frailty raise safety concerns.



Decreased tolerance for physical activity

Daily tasks become exhausting or impossible, even with support.

VITAS provides trauma-informed care, expert navigation of Veterans Administration benefits and seamless transitions to preferred care settings. Our teams are trained to recognize service-related stress and provide support that's clinically sound and emotionally attuned.



To Refer a Patient, Call Us at [800.93.VITAS](tel:800.93.VITAS) or Visit [VITAS.com](https://www.vitas.com)
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