



A physician may determine that a patient has a life expectancy of six months or less even if the below findings are not present.

Comorbidities also support eligibility for hospice care.

Quick Reference

Hospice Benefit Eligibility Determination

<p>Dementia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speech limited to 6 word interview - Unable to perform ADLs w/o assistance - Other medical complications over 12 months (asp. pneumonia, upper UTI, multi. decubs, 10% weight loss, serum albumin < 2.5) 	<p>Pulmonary Disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disabling dyspnea at rest - Visits to ER or admission for pulmonary complications - Hypoxemic at rest on room air (O2 sat ≤ 88% or pCO2 ≥50, pO2 ≤ 55) - Weight loss >10% in previous 6 months - Resting heart rate >100 beats per minute
<p>ALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Critically impaired breathing - Rapid progression of ALS symptoms - Critically impaired nutritional status (12 months) - Other life threatening complications (asp. pneumonia, sepsis, upper UTI, recurrent fever) 	<p>Renal Disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Absence of dialysis or renal transplant - Creatinine Clearance of <10cc/min (15 for diabetics) - Serum creatinine >8mg/dl (6 for diabetics) - Co-morbid conditions - Uremia - Oliguria (<400cc/day) - Hyperkalemia >7.0, unresponsive to treatment - Fluid overload, unresponsive to treatment
<p>HIV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CD4 count <25 - Viral load >100,000 - Complications from immunosuppression - Karnofsky Performance < 50 (see back) 	<p>Stroke or Coma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Palliative Performance Scale ≤40 (see back) - Inability to maintain hydration and caloric intake - Comatose with 3 of below symptoms on day 3 of coma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absent verbal response Absent withdrawal response to pain Serum creatinine >1mg/dl
<p>Failure to Thrive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BMI below 22 (see back) - Karnofsky Performance ≤40 (see back) - Palliative Performance Scale ≤ 40 (see back) 	<p>Liver Disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PT more than 5 seconds over control, INR >1.5 - Serum albumin <2.5gm/dl - Ascites, variceal bleed, peritonitis, hepatorenal syndrome - Complicating factors (malnutrition, muscle wasting, ETOH abuse)
<p>Heart Disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signs and symptoms of CHF at rest - Currently on optimal diuretic and vasodilator therapy - Complicating factors (arrhythmias, Hx of MI, syncope) - EF ≤ 20% 	<p>General Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Life limiting condition - Pt/family aware life limiting and elect palliative care - Documented clinical disease progression - Recent decline in functional status, Karnofsky ≤ 50% and/or dependent in 3 ADLs - Recent impaired nutritional status (10% weight loss, serum albumin <2.5gm/dl)



Karnofsky Performance Status

Unable to care for self; requires equivalent of institutional or hospital care; disease may be progressing rapidly.	40	Disabled; requires special care and assistance.
	30	Severely disabled; hospital admission is indicated although death not imminent.
	20	Very sick; hospital admission necessary; active support treatment necessary.
	10	Moribund; fatal processes progressing rapidly.

Palliative Performance Scale

%	Activity	Work Ability	Self Care Level	Intake	LOC
40	Mainly Bed Bound	Unable to do any work. Extensive Disease.	Mainly Assistance	Normal or Reduced	Full or Drowsy or Confused
30	Total Bed Bound	Unable to do any work. Extensive Disease.	Total Care	Reduced	Full or Drowsy or Confused
20	Total Bed Bound	Unable to do any work. Extensive Disease.	Total Care	Minimal Sips	Full or Drowsy or Coma
10	Total Bed Bound	Unable to do any work. Extensive Disease.	Total Care	Mouth Care Only	Drowsy or Coma

Body Mass Index (BMI)

$\text{BMI (kg/m}^2\text{)} = \frac{\text{weight (kg)}}{\text{height (m)}^2}$	<p>To calculate:</p> <p>Step 1. Multiply weight (in pounds) by 703</p> <p>Step 2. Multiply height (in inches) by height (in inches)</p> <p>Step 3. Divide step 1 by step 2 to get BMI</p>
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