

Hospice Eligibility Guide

When should **Tabitha Hospice** services be considered?
To help make that important decision, use these guidelines,
along with your physician's recommendations.



TABITHA



GENERAL

- Decline in functional status (requiring increasing assistance and medical care)
- Unintentional, progressive weight loss of more than 10 percent during past six months (may indicate other disease processes listed)
- Multiple hospitalizations or ER visits
- Change in cognitive ability
- Family/patient electing comfort care



HEART DISEASE

- Change in functional status (frequent falls)
- Edema
- Diuretic therapy
- Cachexia, profound weight loss
- Dyspnea at rest or with exertion



PULMONARY DISEASE

- Dyspnea at rest or with exertion
- Oxygen-dependent
- Recurrent infections
- Progressive cough
- Resting tachycardia
- Home/chair-bound



DEMENTIA/ STROKE

- Dependent for:
 - Ambulation
 - Dressing/bathing
- Incontinence of urine and stool
- Unable to speak or communicate intelligibly
- Recurrent infections
- Difficulty swallowing
- Poor nutritional status



RENAL DISEASE

- Intractable
 - Fluid overload
 - Hyperkalemia
- Oliguria
- Generalized pruritus



LIVER DISEASE

- Ascites
- Prothrombin time prolonged more than five seconds beyond control
- Serum albumin less than 2.5 gm/dl
- Slurred speech
- Decreased environmental awareness
- Emotional lability



AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS

- Rapid progression: critical factor
- Decline during past 12 months in:
 - Mobility
 - Speech
 - Swallowing
 - ADLs
 - Breathing
- Frequent/recurrent infections



CANCER

- Disease with metastases at presentation
- Progression from earlier stage of disease to metastatic disease and patient declines further disease-directed therapy

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Other conditions may be eligible for hospice care.

For a free evaluation, please call Tabitha Hospice today.

Lincoln | Nebraska City

402.486.8506

York | Seward

402.362.7739

Grand Island | Kearney

308.389.6002



TABITHA

