

Hospice Eligibility Guide

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



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
- > Dependent for 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
- > Intractable 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

Other conditions may be eligible for hospice care.

For a free evaluation, please call Eventide Hospice today.

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