

## Hospice Eligibility Guidelines

*These are general guidelines. Please contact Good Shepherd Community Hospice to discuss specific patients.*

### Cancer diagnosis with metastases at time of diagnosis OR progression to metastatic disease

#### Non –Cancer diagnoses

##### ALS

1. Other supporting conditions
2. Progression of ALS i.e. decreased functional status AND evidence of impairment of respiratory function OR critical nutrition impairment i.e. weight loss or difficulty swallowing

##### Dementia

1. Advanced dementia: Needing assistance with at least 3 ADLs, ability to speak limited to only a few intelligible words AND any of the following within the past year: Aspiration pneumonia, upper urinary infection, multiple Stage 3-4 decubitus ulcers, recurrent fever after antibiotics, weight loss or episodes of dehydration
2. Other supporting conditions

##### Heart Disease

1. Patient optimally treated with diuretics and vasodilators
2. Significant symptoms or recurrent CHF at rest
3. Inability to carry on Physical Activity without discomfort (anginal symptoms present at rest)
4. Other supporting conditions

##### Liver Disease

1. Pro time >5 seconds over control or INR >1.5
2. Albumin <2.5 AND at least one of the following: Ascites refractory to treatment, spontaneous bacterial peritonitis, hepatorenal syndrome hepatic encephalopathy, recurrent variceal bleed despite intensive therapy
3. Supporting factors include any of the following: Progressive malnutrition, muscle wasting, continued active alcoholism, Hepatitis C refractory to treatment
4. Other supporting conditions

##### Pulmonary Disease

1. Disabling dyspnea at rest or poorly or unresponsive to broncho dilators AND progression of end-stage pulmonary disease evidenced by increased episodes of infection, visits to the emergency department or hospital
2. Room air oxygen saturation less than or equal to 88%. Factors contributing to eligibility include: Right heart failure, weight loss, resting tachycardia
3. Other supporting conditions

##### Renal Disease

- For chronic kidney disease: Patient not seeking dialysis or transplant
2. At least one of the following: Creatinine clearance <10cc/min or 15 cc/min for diabetics. Signs of renal failure: Hyperkalemia, Uremic pericarditis, Fld overload not responsive to treatment, advanced lung, liver or cardiac disease, Uremia, Oliguria (<400cc/day)
  3. Other supporting conditions

##### Stroke/Coma

1. Stroke with poor level of function AND any of the following: Inability to maintain hydration and caloric intake as evidenced by weight loss OR aspiration OR dysphagia OR Coma or vegetative state beyond 3 days duration. Eligibility is supported by medical complications, i.e. aspiration pneumonia, pyelonephritis, Stage 3 or 4 decubitus ulcers, recurrent fever after antibiotics
2. Other supporting conditions

##### HIV

1. CD4 + count <25cells/mcl or persistent viral load >100,000 copies/ml plus one of the following: CNS Lymphoma, wasting (loss of 33% lean body mass), Systemic Lymphoma, Visceral Kaposi's Sarcoma unresponsive to therapy, renal failure and no dialysis, Cryptosporidium infection, Toxoplasmosis unresponsive to therapy
2. Factors that contribute to eligibility: Poor nutritional state, age >50, advanced AIDS dementia, CHF symptomatic at rest, advanced liver disease
3. Other supporting conditions

##### Decline in Health

Patient does not meet criteria for a specific disease, yet due to comorbidities or other factors is expected to have life expectancy of 6 months or less.

1. Progression of disease as documented by signs, symptoms and test results
2. Decline in performance of activities
3. Weight loss
4. Dependence on assistance for 2 or more ADLs
5. Dysphagia
6. Decline in systolic B.P. relative to patient's baseline or progressive postural hypotension
7. Evidence of increased need for skilled service
8. Progressive dementia
9. Progressive stage 3-4 pressure ulcer in spite of optimal care
10. Other supporting conditions

##### Supporting conditions

1. Dependence for at least two or more ADLs
2. Significant comorbidity such as COPD, CHF, CAD, diabetes, Stroke, Parkinson's disease, advanced renal or liver disease, cancer, AIDS, dementia