

# Hospice Referral Indicators for Non-Cancer Diagnoses

*Adapted from the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization*

## END STAGE CARDIAC DISEASE

- Symptoms of CHF
- Diuretic and/or vasodilator therapy
- Ejection fraction  $\leq 20\%$
- Ventricular arrhythmia
- History of cardiac arrest or MI
- Angina at rest

## END STAGE PULMONARY DISEASE

- Clinical evidence of severe lung disease
- Dyspnea or hypoxemia at rest
- Increased visit to Emergency Room
- Cor pulmonale
- Weight loss
- Resting tachycardia  $> 100/\text{min}$
- $\text{pO}_2 < 55$  on oxygen or  $88\%$  on room air

## STROKE SEQUELAE

- Post-stroke dementia
- Cannot perform ADLs without assistance
- Ability to speak is limited to six or fewer intelligible words
- Weight loss of  $10\%$  or serum albumin  $< 2.5$  over past six months

## DEBILITY UNSPECIFIED

- Weight loss of  $10\%$  in last six months
- Functional decline
- Skin integrity issues
- Recurrent infections and/or multiple hospitalizations in past year

## END STAGE RENAL DISEASE

- Creatinine clearance  $< 10\text{cc}/\text{mm}$  ( $< 15\text{ cc}/\text{mm}$  in diabetics)
- Serum creatinine  $> 8.0$  ( $> 6.0$  for diabetics)
- Not seeking dialysis (but dialysis patients may be eligible for Hospice benefits)
- Not seeking transplant

## END STAGE LIVER DISEASE

- Ascites, hepatorenal syndrome, or hepatic encephalopathy
- Progressive malnutrition & muscle wasting
- Active alcoholism
- Hepatitis B positive
- Awaiting liver transplant
- Prothombin time  $> 5$  seconds
- Serum albumin  $< 2.5$

## END STAGE DEMENTIA

- Lack of meaningful communication
- Unable to ambulate independently
- Cannot perform ADLs without assistance
- Incontinent
- In last 12 months had: aspiration pneumonia, UTI, sepsis, multiple decubitus ulcers, or fever

In last 6 months had weight loss of  $10\%$  or serum albumin  $< 2.5$

***For more information, to make a referral or for a consultation to see if a patient is appropriate for Hospice, please call 1-800-249-8298***