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 ≤ 20%
- Ventricular arrhythmia
- History of cardiac arrest or MI
- Angina at rest

**End Stage Renal Disease**
- Creatinine clearance < 10cc/mm (<15 cc/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 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/min
- pO₂ <55 on oxygen or 88% on room air

**End Stage Liver Disease**
- Ascites, hepatorenal syndrome, or hepatic encephalopathy
- Progressive malnutrition & muscle wasting
- Active alcoholism
- Hepatitis B positive
- Awaiting liver transplant
- Prothrombin time > 5 seconds
- Serum albumin < 2.5

**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

**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

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

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