



## Indicators for Hospice Referrals - Alzheimer's Disease

A checklist for clinicians including Emergency Department staff

Patient's with end-stage Alzheimer's Disease should have a Functional Assessment Staging Scale level of 7 or greater and specific comorbid or secondary conditions. *Patients who do not fully meet the criteria may still be deemed eligible for hospice based on the totality of their clinical picture and documentation of such.*

**FAST Scale** - check all that apply.

- 6e Urinary and fecal incontinence
- 7a Ability to speak limited to about half a dozen words in an average day
- 7b Intelligible vocabulary limited to a single word in an average day
- 7c Non-ambulatory (unable to walk without assistance)
- 7d Unable to sit up independently
- 7e Unable to smile
- 7f Unable to hold head up

**Secondary Conditions** - Patient should have had one of the following within the past 12 months

- Aspiration pneumonia
- Pyelonephritis or other upper urinary tract infection
- Sepsis
- Decubitus ulcers, multiple, stage 3-4
- Fever recurrent after antibiotics
- Unintentional weight loss of >10% in six months
- Inability to maintain sufficient fluid and calorie intake with 10% weight loss during the previous six months
- Serum albumin < 2.5 gm/dl

## Why You Should Not Wait to Call Vitality

Simply put: Hospice makes whatever time the patient and family has better.

Once patients and families experience the level of care they receive, as well as the education and support provided to family members, they understand how much having a hospice team improves the whole family's quality of life.

To make a hospice referral or get more information call us at:

**877-288-0042**

