



## Indicators for Hospice Referrals - Cancer

A checklist for clinicians including Emergency Department staff

Consider hospice if a patient meets 2 or more:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple ED visits or hospitalizations            | <input type="checkbox"/> Dependent in 2-3 of 6 ADLs              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Experiencing decline in condition despite therapy | <input type="checkbox"/> 10% weight loss in 6 months             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electing to stop curative treatment               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOB or fatigue at rest/minimal exertion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decreased tolerance in physical activity          | <input type="checkbox"/> Recurrent falls with injury             |

### ECOG Score for Functional Status

An Eastern Cooperating Oncology Group scale (ECOG) score of 3 or higher correlates roughly with life expectancy of three months or less. An ECOG score of 2 is generally supportive of hospice eligibility.

- 0: Asymptomatic
- 1: Symptomatic but completely ambulatory
- 2: Symptomatic, <50% in bed during the day
- 3: Symptomatic, >50% in bed but not bedbound
- 4: Bedbound
- 5: Death

### Palliative Performance Scale (PPS) for Functional Status

Often a cancer patient who scores 70% or lower on the PPS may be eligible for hospice.

- 60% Reduced ambulation, Significant disease, Occasional assist with self-care
- 50% Mainly sitting, Extensive disease, Considerable assistance required with self-care
- 40% Mainly in bed, Mainly assistance required with self-care, Normal to reduced appetite
- 30% Totally bed bound, Total care with self-care, Reduced appetite
- 20% Totally bed bound, Total care with self-care, Minimal sips
- 10% Totally bed bound, Total care with self-care, Mouth care only

## 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**



**Vitality Hospice  
& Palliative Care**