



## Indicators for Hospice Referrals - HIV

A checklist for clinicians including Emergency Department staff

Numbers 1, 2 and 3 should be present. Factors from number 4 will add supporting documentation. *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.*

1.  Physiologic impairment of functional status as demonstrated by Palliative Performance Score (PPS)  $\leq$  50%.
2.  Patient has CD4+ count  $<$  25 cells/mcl OR  
 Persistent viral load  $>$  100,000 copies/ml (2 or more assays at least 1 month apart)
3. Patient has one of the following:
  - CNS lymphoma
  - Wasting (loss of at least 10% lean body mass) untreated or unresponsive to treatment
  - Mycobacterium Avium Complex (MAC) bacteremia untreated, unresponsive to treatment, or treatment refused
  - Visceral Kaposi's sarcoma unresponsive to therapy
  - Renal failure in the absence of dialysis
  - Toxoplasmosis, unresponsive to therapy
  - Systemic lymphoma with advanced HIV disease and partial response to chemotherapy
  - Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopath
4. Documentation of the following factors will support eligibility for hospice care:
  - Chronic persistent diarrhea for one year
  - Persistent serum albumin  $<$  2.5 gm/dl
  - Concomitant active substance abuse
  - Age  $>$  50
  - Absence of or resistance to effective antiretroviral, chemotherapeutic and prophylactic drug therapy related specifically to HIV Disease
  - Congestive heart failure, symptomatic at rest
  - Advanced AIDS dementia complex
  - Toxoplasmosis
  - Advanced liver disease

## 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**

