



Indicators for Hospice Referrals

Neurological Disease - Stroke, Parkinson's, MS, Coma

A checklist for clinicians including Emergency Department staff

Regardless of the specific diagnosis, patients with neurological diseases become eligible for hospice when they experience continuous decline in clinical or functional status over time, leading to poor prognosis.

1. Physiologic impairment of functional status as demonstrated by Palliative Performance Score (PPS) \leq 50%.
2. Documentation of medical complications within the previous 12 months, in the context of progressive clinical decline, will help support eligibility for hospice care
 - Aspiration pneumonia, or other respiratory infection
 - Pyelonephritis or other upper urinary tract infection
 - Sepsis
 - Refractory stage 3-4 decubitus ulcers
 - Fever recurrent after antibiotics
 - Abnormal/absent brain response, verbal response, or withdrawal response to pain
3. Documentation of the following factors will support eligibility for hospice care:
 - Increased dyspnea, even at rest or on oxygen
 - Inability to clear respiratory secretions, persistent cough or recurrent aspiration pneumonia
 - Dysphagia; inability to swallow liquids or soft foods without choking or coughing
 - Spends most of the time in the same room, chair, or bed
 - Intelligible speech
 - Continued weight loss
 - Considerable assistance required to complete self-care

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