



Indicators for Hospice Referrals -Renal Disease

A checklist for clinicians including Emergency Department staff

Both acute and chronic renal failure patients should meet numbers 1 and either 2 or 3. Factors from numbers 4 and 5 lend additional 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. The patient is not seeking dialysis or renal transplant or is discontinuing dialysis
2. Creatinine clearance < 10 cc/min (< 15 cc/min for diabetics) based on measurement or calculation; or < 15cc/min (< 20cc/min for diabetics) with comorbidity of congestive heart failure
3. Serum creatinine > 8.0 mg/dl (> 6.0 mg/dl for diabetics)
4. Comorbid conditions:

<input type="checkbox"/> History of mechanical ventilation	<input type="checkbox"/> Immunosuppression/AIDS
<input type="checkbox"/> Malignancy of other organ system	<input type="checkbox"/> Albumin < 3.5 gm/dl
<input type="checkbox"/> Chronic lung disease	<input type="checkbox"/> Cachexia
<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced cardiac disease	<input type="checkbox"/> Platelet count < 25,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced liver disease	<input type="checkbox"/> Disseminated intravascular coagulation
<input type="checkbox"/> Sepsis	<input type="checkbox"/> Gastrointestinal bleeding
5. Signs and symptoms of renal failure:
 - Uremia
 - Intractable hyperkalemia (> 7.0 not responsive to treatment)
 - Uremic pericarditis
 - Hepatorenal syndrome
 - Oliguria (< 400 cc/24 hrs)
 - Intractable fluid overload, not responsive to treatment

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**