

"Early Indicators of Hospice Eligibility"

Dementias

- ◆ Unable to ambulate/transfer without extensive assistance
- ◆ Limited meaningful verbal communication
- ◆ Unable to bathe or dress without assistance
- ◆ Incontinent of bowel/bladder
- ◆ Weight loss, infections, sepsis, decubitus, falls, multiple ER trips last 12 months

Possible Diagnoses but not limited to:

Alzheimer's Disease, Frontal Dementia, Frontal-Temporal Dementia, Parkinson's Disease, Cerebellar Degeneration, CVA related Dementia, CVD related Dementia

Heart Disease / CHF

- ◆ Extremity edema
- ◆ Unable to carry on any physical activity without symptoms
- ◆ Symptoms are present even at rest
- ◆ Ejection Fraction 20% or less
- ◆ Recent cardiac hospitalization, on transplant list, unable to tolerate heart surgery/not candidate for heart surgery

Possible Diagnoses but not limited to: Right/Left side heart failure, Cardiomyopathies, CAD, Valvular Heart Disease, Pulmonary Hypertension, Aortic Stenosis

Renal Disease

- ◆ Patient not seeking dialysis
 - ◆ Patient not a candidate for renal transplant
- Secondary Condition:** hyperparathyroidism, calciphylaxis, nephrogenic systemic fibrosis, electrolyte abnormalities, hyperkalemia, fluid overload

Pulmonary Disease

- ◆ Dyspnea at rest
- ◆ Hospitalizations or ER visits for pulmonary infections and/or respiratory failure or distress
- ◆ Unintentional weight loss
- ◆ Hypoxemia at rest on room air SpO₂ < 88%
- ◆ Chronic CO₂ retention

Possible Diagnoses but not limited to:

Pulmonary hypertension, Pulmonary fibrosis, COPD, Emphysema, Mycobacterium Infections, Interstitial Lung Disease

Liver Disease

- ◆ Refractory ascites
- ◆ Malnutrition, low albumin
- ◆ Abnormal clotting times
- ◆ Recurrently requiring paracentesis

Neurological Diseases

- ◆ Noted disease progression
- ◆ Decline in activity tolerance
- ◆ Possible Aspiration pneumonia within last 6 months
- ◆ Weight loss
- ◆ (can still be eligible with a feeding tube)

Possible Diagnoses but not limited to: CVA, Parkinson's Disease, ALS, MS

Secondary Condition: dysphagia, pneumonia, pressure ulcer

HIV/AIDS

- ◆ CD4 count < 25 or persistent viral load > 100,000
- ◆ Weight loss
- ◆ Presence of other medical problems
- ◆ Not responding to treatment
- ◆ Presence of opportunistic infections/conditions
- ◆ Absence of HIV drug therapy/noncompliant therapy