



Hospice Indicator *Quick Reference Guide*

As with any disease process, there are indicators to help you assess the situation and maximize the benefits of hospice care for your patients. Our staff is just a phone call away 24/7 for admissions and consultation.

Call Angela Hospice if your patient is experiencing any of the following disease progression or quality of life factors:

Disease Progression

- Decline/decrease in ADLs or functioning abilities
- Weight loss, decreased appetite, or refusal to eat
- Decline/decrease in cognitive abilities
- Observable decline in overall status
- Use of medications without symptom relief

Quality of Life Factors

- Repeated trips to the hospital & ER
- A recent change in "DNR" status
- Patient/family requests comfort care only
- Curative options no longer available or appropriate

Your patient may be appropriate for hospice if they have one or more of the following Disease Related Indicators:

Alzheimer's & Parkinson's

- Level 7-C on Fast scale (incontinent, unable to communicate intelligently or ambulate)
- History of frequent infections or skin breakdown
- Difficulty swallowing/weight loss $\geq 10\%$ over several months

Cardiac

- Oxygen dependent/shortness of breath at rest
- Ejection fraction $\leq 20\%$
- Secondary organ failure
- If CHF: peripheral edema/ascites
- If ASCVD: history of angina/MIs

COPD/Lung Disease

- Shortness of breath at rest/oxygen dependent
- Medications do not provide symptom relief
- Elevated PCO₂ > 50 mm Hg.
- Increased frequency and severity of infections

Liver Disease

- Jaundice, ascites and edema
- Enlarged liver with significantly abnormal liver enzymes
- Albumin < 2.5

End-Stage Diabetes

- Unstable blood sugars/frequent changes
- Severe vascular insufficiencies/wounds/ulcers
- Frequent infections
- Requires considerable assistance with ADLs

Neurological

- Continuous decline in clinical or functional status over time
- Large volume cranial hemorrhage on CT/large area infarcts

Renal Failure

- BUN/creatinine significantly elevated

(866) 464-7810

www.AskForAngela.com