



## Refer Hospice-Eligible Patients Sooner

Research consistently shows that patients who enroll in hospice earlier experience greater satisfaction, improved quality of life, and reduced physical and emotional distress. Timely hospice referrals allow patients and families to benefit from comprehensive symptom management, interdisciplinary support, and care focused on comfort, dignity, and quality of life.

### Benefits of Earlier Hospice Referrals Include:



Improved pain and symptom management



24/7 access to hospice clinicians



Emotional and spiritual support for patients and families



Reduced emergency department visits and hospitalizations



Expanded Team



Advanced Illness Specialists

**Most patients with serious illness would benefit from being referred to hospice sooner for comprehensive care.**

**DON'T delay hospice referrals.**

Have a patient who may benefit from hospice care?

Serving the Greater Baton Rouge area, the New Orleans area, and Mississippi Gulf Coast





# Is Your Patient Eligible for Hospice?

A quick clinical checklist to support timely hospice referrals:

## General Hospice Eligibility Guidelines

Consider hospice if a patient meets two or more of the following:

- Poor response to disease directed treatments
- Dependent in 2–3 of 6 Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)
- Shortness of breath or fatigue at rest or with minimal exertion
- Multiple emergency department visits or hospitalizations
- Minimal functional recovery despite rehabilitation
- 10% or greater weight loss in 6 months
- Recurrent falls with injury
- Decreased tolerance for physical activity

## Diagnosis-Specific Hospice Eligibility

### Dementia/Alzheimer's Disease

Dependent in 3 of 6 ADLs and one or more of the following:

- Pneumonia, recurrent UTI, or sepsis
- Hip fracture
- Swallowing difficulty or feeding tube decision
- Delirium

### Cancer

- No longer pursuing chemotherapy or immunotherapy or metastatic disease

### Liver Disease

- INR > 1.5 and serum albumin < 2.5 g/dL
- Ascites, spontaneous bacterial peritonitis, encephalopathy, variceal bleeding, weight loss, or hepatorenal syndrome

### Lung Disease

- Recurrent Pneumonia or respiratory infections
- Dyspnea at rest or with minimal exertion while on oxygen therapy
- Frequent emergency department visits or hospitalizations
- Continuous oxygen requirement

### Heart Disease

- History of Cardiac arrest or syncope
- Reduced ejection fraction < 20%
- Recurrent symptomatic arrhythmias
- Not a surgical candidate

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