

*When is a patient eligible for hospice?*



# HOSPICE **SCREENING TOOL**

---

Hospice is not about “giving up”, it’s about changing the treatment focus to improve comfort and quality of life.

Treating patients with advanced disease can be difficult. Determining a six-month prognosis can be even more challenging. The hospice screening tool is designed to guide a clinician’s thought process when considering eligibility for hospice care.

A decline in **functional status** is the single leading indicator of hospice eligibility, regardless of disease process. Other signs and symptoms that a patient is nearing the end of life are:

- Frequent hospitalizations or ER visits
- Significant weight loss in 3-6 months
- Continued decline regardless of treatment

Use the screening tool on the back page to determine if your patient qualifies for hospice. If you check several boxes aligned with “Call for Hospice Evaluation”, your patient could be eligible for symptom management medications to help control pain, supplies and equipment to support comfort, and emotional support for your patient and their family.

---

**Heart to Heart Hospice**

Compassionate Care from Our Heart to Yours



# When is a patient eligible for hospice?

<b>FUNCTIONAL STATUS</b>	<b>ACTION REQUIRED</b>	
<b>Palliative Performance Scale (for all disease processes)</b> ≥30% (completely disabled, unable to perform any self-care, bed bound, extensive disease) = 40% (mainly in bed, limited self-care, unable to do any work, extensive disease) = 50% (mainly sit or lie, unable to do any work, considerable assistance needed, extensive disease)		Call for Hospice Evaluation Call for Hospice Evaluation Observe for decline
<b>ECOG (for Advanced Cancer Patients)</b> Grade 4 - Completely disabled (unable to perform any self-care, confined to bed or chair). ECOG 4 correlates with a prognosis of < 1 month Grade 3 - Capable of only limited self-care (confined to bed or chair more than 50% of waking hours). ECOG 3 correlates with a prognosis of < 3 months Grade 2 - Ambulatory and capable of all self-care, but unable to carry out work activities		Call for Hospice Evaluation Call for Hospice Evaluation Observe for changes
<b>DISEASE PROCESS</b> Advanced Lung Disease (COPD) - disabling SOB at rest, bed to chair existence, poor/no response to bronchodilators, multiple hospitalizations/ED visits < 90 days Advanced Lung Disease (COPD) - unintentional weight loss, increased functional decline Advanced Cardiac Disease (CHF, CAD, cardiomyopathy) - NY Heart Class IV, discomfort at rest, multiple hospitalizations/ED visits <90 days Advanced Cardiac Disease (CHF, CAD, cardiomyopathy) - continued functional decline, co-morbidities, increased fatigue, increased O2 usage, frequent physician visits Advanced Cancer - metastatic or recurring, failed therapies, ECOG 3 or 4, treatment discontinued End-stage Kidney Disease - patient refuses or stopping dialysis End-stage Kidney Disease - weight loss, functional decline, increased infections, uncontrolled pain, increasing weakness Advanced Liver Disease - ascites refractory to treatment, bacterial peritonitis, albumin <2.5, multiple hospitalizations/ED visits < 90 days Advanced Liver Disease - malnutrition, muscle wasting, frequent paracentesis Advanced Dementia - stage 3 or 4 wounds that will not heal, >10% weight loss in <6 months, consistent weight loss for 3 months, multiple hospitalizations/ ED visits < 90 days, FAST stage seven Advanced Dementia - change in ambulation from independent to assist, change in nutritional intake, changes in need for support of all ADLs Advanced Neurological Diseases (ALS, Parkinson's, MS) - signs of swallowing disorder, recurrent infections, incapable of self-care, multiple hospitalizations/ED visits < 90 days	<b>ACTION REQUIRED</b>	Call for Hospice Evaluation Observe for changes Call for Hospice Evaluation Observe for changes Call for Hospice Evaluation Call for Hospice Evaluation Observe for changes Call for Hospice Evaluation Observe for changes Call for Hospice Evaluation Call for Hospice Evaluation
<b>OTHER SYMPTOMS OF ADVANCED DISEASE</b> Need and desire for comfort care / advanced care planning Repeat hospitalizations / ED visits for same disease process in <90 days Unable to provide any self-care, unusual change in mobility or cognition Uncontrolled pain Stage 3 or 4 wounds Hospitalizations for infections, fractures, dehydration, pneumonia Refusing / unable to eat or drink, unusual change in weight Progressive decline despite treatment Numerous medication changes	<b>ACTION REQUIRED</b>	Call for Hospice Evaluation Call for Hospice Evaluation Call for Hospice Evaluation Call for Hospice Evaluation Call for Hospice Evaluation Call for Hospice Evaluation Call for Hospice Evaluation Call for Hospice Evaluation
Note: Review symptoms on the left panel and check the applicable box on the right		

