

Common Indicators for Hospice Care

Not all indicators are required to qualify for care.

The Hospice philosophy focuses on comfort and quality of life rather than diagnostic procedures and aggressive treatment. Knute Nelson Hospice strives to make every day matter.

Cancer

- Spread to other organs
- No longer seeking treatment

Alzheimer's/Dementia

- Difficulty swallowing
- Lack of bowel or bladder control
- Inability to dress or feed oneself
- Loss of meaningful speech
- Consistent weight loss

ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease)

- Rapid progression
- Decreased physical functioning
- Loss of muscle use
- Weight loss

Congestive Heart Failure

- Severe fatigue
- Shortness of breath at rest
- Chronic fluid build-up
- Frequent hospitalization

Lung Disease

- Severe debilitating asthma/emphysema
- Shortness of breath at rest
- Oxygen dependent
- Frequent hospitalization

Stroke

- Difficulty swallowing
- Lack of bowel and bladder control
- Inability to dress or feed oneself
- Consistent weight loss

End-Stage Kidney Disease

- Severe fluid build-up and swelling
- Frequent hospitalization
- No longer receiving dialysis

End-Stage Diabetes

- Frequent hospitalization
- Loss of sight
- Nerve damage
- Chronic infection
- Uncontrollable sugar levels
- Loss of limbs

Hospice

BY KNUTE NELSON

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Karnofsky Performance Scale

Patients at 70 or less on the scale may be hospice appropriate.

Score	Function
100	Normal, no evidence of disease
90	Able to perform normal activity with only minor symptoms
80	Normal activity with effort, some symptoms
70	Able to care for self but unable to do normal activities
60	Requires occasional assistance, cares for most needs
50	Requires considerable assistance
40	Disabled, requires special assistance
30	Severely disabled
20	Very sick, requires active supportive treatment
10	Moribund
0	Death

Functional Assessment Scale (FAST)

Patients with ANY symptoms in section 7 may be hospice appropriate.

Stage	Level of Functioning
1	No difficulty, subjectively or objectively
2	Complains of forgetting location of objects; word finding
3	Deficit in demanding employment settings
4	Requires assistance in complex tasks (planning dinner for guests, handling personal finances, forgetting to pay bills, etc.)
5	Requires assistance in choosing proper clothing to wear for the day, season, or occasion
6	A) Assistance required in putting on clothing B) Assistance required in bathing properly C) Assistance required with mechanics of toileting D) Urinary incontinence E) Fecal incontinence
7	A) Speech ability limited to less than 6 different intelligible words/day or over the course of a single interview B) Speech ability limited to the use of one single intelligible word/day or over the course of a single interview C) Unable to walk without personal assistance D) Unable to sit up E) Unable to smile F) Unable to hold up head

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