

GENERAL HOSPICE ELIGIBILITY SYMPTOMS

VALOR PATIENTCARE™ PROGRAM

General Indication Criteria for Common Diagnoses **CALL: 877.615.3996**

As part of our Valor PatientCare™ Program, we are providing this symptom chart for general indications that a patient may be eligible for hospice care.

The patient, family members, friends, physicians, nurses, pastors, home health agencies, community representatives or anyone else who believes that hospice care is an appropriate option can initiate referrals to hospice.

Hospice is an interdisciplinary team approach to care, providing care wherever the patient resides. We provide physical, emotional and spiritual support to individuals with a terminal disease and their loved ones.

Valor HospiceCare offers four levels of patient care. Working closely with the patient and their family for care, the hospice team will determine the level of care.

Routine Home Care – Working with the caregiver and family, the hospice team will visit the patient regularly, wherever the patient resides for intermittent care.

Continuous Care – For very limited short term situations, hospice may provide continuous home nursing care. Staffing is from 8 to 24 hours from skilled hospice staff.

Inpatient Care – When necessary, for emergency care to get various symptoms under control, various local, contracted skilled nursing facilities are utilized.

Respite Care – Recognizing the emotional and physical strain on caregivers in the home, respite care is available for up to five days at a time to provide a break to caregivers.

Valor covers 100% of Medicare hospice care, including AHCCCS and many insurance plans. The Medicare Hospice Benefit requires that the following three criteria be met for a beneficiary to qualify for hospice:

1. A terminal disease process has been identified;
2. The physician determines that the patient's life is limited to 6 months or less if the disease runs its expected course; and
3. The patient, or legal representative, desires comfort care rather than aggressive or curative interventions.

AIDS/HIV

- Frequent infections and life threatening complications
- Losing weight
- Increasing difficulty in managing activities of daily life

CANCER

- Patient and family desire symptom control and hospice support
- Life-prolonging treatments are over
- 10% weight loss over past 3 months
- Increasing weakness
- Symptoms of cancer are worsening
- Difficulty of performing daily living activities

Contact us today for a free in home nurse or doctor evaluation.

DEMENTIA

- Inability to ambulate or dress without assistance
- Increased choking and decreased food intake
- No consistent meaningful communication
- 10% weight loss over last 3 months

HEART DISEASE

- Has congestive heart failure or is on oxygen
- Activity is limited
- Taking many heart medications
- Recent hospitalization for heart problems or complications of their disease

LIVER DISEASE

- Possible confusion at times
- Bruising easily and symptoms of jaundice
- Muscle wasting, hepatitis, liver tumor or alcohol abuse

NEUROLOGIC DISEASES

(ALS, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinsons)

- Diminished mobility, bed bound or need of maximum assistance
- Barely intelligible or unintelligible speech
- Respiratory distress, including short of breath at rest, oxygen use or has previously been on a ventilator
- Losing weight including 10% body weight loss in past 3 months
- Trouble speaking or chewing solid foods
- Constipation or urinary retention

NON-SPECIFIC TERMINAL ILLNESS

- Decreased functional capacity and appears increasingly frail
- Bed-bound or transferring only with assistance
- Decreasing blood pressure
- Increasing visits to physician, ER or hospital
- Decreased interest in eating and drinking

PULMONARY DISEASE

- Short of breath with minimal exertion or at rest
- Loss of 10% of body weight over last 3 months
- Taking many medications to manage breathing
- Oxygen dependent and periods of confusion related to poor oxygen levels
- Frequent hospital visits or hospitalization due to infections

RENAL (KIDNEY) FAILURE

- Patient not seeking dialysis
- Congestive heart failure
- Symptoms of kidney failure, including swelling of the feet, legs and hands
- Itching

STROKE

- Impaired nutritional status/weight loss over 10%
- Speech limited to 6 or less intelligible words
- Unable to walk without assistance or unable to participate in rehabilitation
- Recurrent infections (pneumonia, UTI's, sepsis) after antibiotics