

Hospice Admission and Eligibility Criteria Checklist

If a patient has 4+ criteria, request a consultation with Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care, available 24/7 at 847-685-9900.

General Criteria:

- Terminal Diagnosis (<6 months)
- Declining nutrition (10% loss of body weight)
- 3+ hospitalizations in past 6 months
- Noticeable decline in mental status
- Multiple comorbidities
- Decline in functional status
- Falls in past 6 months
- Frequent infections/illnesses
- Recent significant stroke or coma events
- Uncontrolled pain or symptoms

Alzheimer's Disease

- Stage 7 Fast Scale rating
- 1+ of the following in the past 12 months:
 - Aspiration pneumonia
 - Pyelonephritis/septicemia
 - Multiple pressure ulcers
 - Recurrent fever
 - Recurrent falls
 - Inability to maintain fluid/caloric intake

Cancer

- Clinical finding of a widespread, aggressive, progressive disease, PPS \leq 70%
- Metastasis: 4 or 5
- Refusal of chemo/radiation
- Refusal/continuing to decline w/ life-prolonging therapy
- Transfusion requirements
- Pleural effusion

Heart Disease

- CHF w/ NYHA Class III or IV
- Significant fatigue at rest
- Optimally treated w/diuretics and vasodilators
- Shortness of breath/angina at rest
- Treatment resistant
- Syncope, disrythmia, or other abnormal monitoring

HIV/AIDS

- CD4+ < 25 cells/ mL OR
- Viral load > 100,000/ml
- AND** one of the following: CNS/systemic lymphoma, MAC bacteremia, refractory wasting, leukoencephalopathy, renal failure w/o dialysis, systemic lymphoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, cryptosporidiosis, refractory toxoplasmosis
- AND** PPS < 50%

Liver Disease

- Needs ongoing assessments/tests
- Muscle wasting
- Ongoing alcoholism
- Functional decline in ADLs or weight loss
- Non-responsive symptoms
- Clinical progression of liver disease and related comorbidities

Neurological Disease

- Dyspnea at rest, vital capacity 30%, needs O2 at rest
- Inability to walk or dress
- Inability to speak
- Difficulty swallowing/food refusal
- Incontinence
- 1+ complications: pneumonia, septicemia, ulcers, UTI, recurrent fever
- Stage 7 FAST Scale rating

Pulmonary Disease

- Disabling dyspnea at rest
- Limited functional capacity
- Dependence on O2 therapy
- Cyanosis
- Steroid dependence
- Noted progression of pulmonary disease (recent ED visits/hospitalizations for respiratory infection or failure)

Renal Disease

- Patient not seeking dialysis or kidney transplant
- Uremia with confusion, nausea, restlessness
- Very low urine output
- Regular infections
- Abnormal eGFR levels (<10 cc/min, <15 cc/min for diabetics)
- Serum creatinine 8.0 mg/dl, >6.0 for diabetics
- Dehydration

Stroke/Coma

- PPS \leq 40% AND
- Poor nutritional status, inability to maintain sufficient fluid intake (\geq 10% weight loss/6 months)
- OR** relevant comorbidities and/or rapid decline
- If coma: abnormal brainstem response, absent verbal/withdrawal response to pain
- Complications: ulcers, serum albumin < 2.5 gm/ml