



Hospice Services



Who is a candidate for hospice services?

- Has a life limiting illness
- Is under the care of a doctor
- Chooses comfort care that manages symptoms rather than aggressive treatment focused on a cure
- Requests hospice services

Hospice is not just for cancer patients

- Heart Disease
- Pulmonary Disease
- Dementia
- Renal Disease
- Liver Disease
- Stroke or Coma
- ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis)
- HIV Disease
- Adult Failure to Thrive Syndrome



A person may qualify for hospice because of HEART DISEASE if you see...

- Shortness of breath when person is at rest or lying down
- Person becomes short of breath doing normal, daily activities
- Swelling in hands, arms, legs, or feet
- Dizziness, increased weakness, or chest pain

A person may qualify for hospice because of PULMONARY (LUNG) DISEASE if you see....

- Shortness of breath when person is at rest or lying down
- Person becomes short of breath doing normal, daily activities
- Individual must be on oxygen all the time
- Infections that won't heal
- Medications to treat lung disease don't always ease symptoms and give relief
- Frequent visits to emergency room
- Person coughing more often, and cough is getting worse

A person may qualify for hospice because of RENAL (KIDNEY) DISEASE if you see...

- Individual is a candidate for dialysis, but prefers not to undergo treatments
- Person has other significant health conditions such as heart, liver, or lung disease
- Confusion, rash and itching, nausea and vomiting, and restlessness

A person may qualify for hospice because of LIVER DISEASE if you see...

- Individual is not a candidate for a transplant
- Large or increased amount of fluid in stomach area (ascites)
- Person is less aware of surroundings and environment
- Change in mental status, sleep disturbance or sleeplessness, depression, slurred speech, mood swings, or tremors

What to look for

- Continued decline in health in spite of treatments
- Multiple hospital stays in the past six months
- New diagnosis following hospitalization or diagnostic evaluation
- Repeat or multiple infections
- Unintentional weight loss
- Changes requiring multiple calls to physician for new medication, laboratory, or treatment orders
- Increased or uncontrolled pain
- Weakness and fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty swallowing
- Changes in mental status
- Uncontrolled nausea and vomiting
- Any other uncontrolled symptoms

Identifying Patients for Hospice Services - General Symptoms

- Decline in overall physical/mental status
- Weight loss in the last six months
- Frequent hospitalizations or ER visits
- Repeat infections (pneumonia, bronchitis, UTIs)
- Profound weakness or fatigue
- Difficulty swallowing
- Shortness of breath or chest pain at rest
- Recurrent edema/swelling
- History of cardiac arrest
- Continuous oxygen
- Uncontrolled pain or vomiting
- Requires assistance with most activities of daily living

**We are available 24 hours a day,
seven days a week, 365 days a year!
If you think someone might qualify
for hospice services, please call.**



610-378-0481



610-327-5700

A person may qualify for hospice because of a **STROKE OR COMA OR ALS (AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS)** if you see.....

- Individual cannot walk or sit up without help
- Person cannot eat, dress or bathe without assistance
- Incontinence of bowel and bladder
- Person has had pneumonia, urinary tract infections or other repeated infections, skin breakdown (ulcers) that won't heal, or a recurrent fever after antibiotics
- Individual has trouble swallowing and is eating and drinking less—may have been discussion about artificial feeding (peg tube)

A person may qualify for hospice because of **DEMENTIA (including Alzheimer's disease)** if you see...

- Speech is limited to a few words and person is hard to understand
- Person cannot walk, sit, or hold up head without help
- Individual can no longer smile
- Person cannot eat, dress, or bathe without assistance
- Incontinence of bowel and bladder
- Person has had pneumonia, urinary tract infections, or other repeated infections, skin breakdown (ulcers) that won't heal, or a recurrent fever after antibiotics
- Individual has trouble swallowing and is eating and drinking less
- Unintentional weight loss in the past six months

A person may qualify for hospice because of **ADULT FAILURE TO THRIVE SYNDROME** if you see...

- Individual has had a significant weight loss
- Person has chosen not to have a feeding tube OR if they have a feeding tube they are still losing weight
- Appetite has declined significantly usually related to disease process

For HIV DISEASE...

- Each case is evaluated upon viral load, CD4 count, life threatening complications, etc.
- Patient cannot be pursuing active curative therapy for disease

Note: Although we can evaluate whether a resident or patient may need specialized hospice care, only a licensed physician can certify a resident or patient for hospice care.