

## General Indicators

- Patient/family desires comfort or palliative care
- The patient no longer wishes to be hospitalized
- Physical Decline
- Increase assistance with ADLs
- Multiple co-morbidities
- Weight loss
- Serum Albumin <2.5
- Frequent hospitalizations or trips to ER
- Increasing pain or weakness
- Life limiting conditions

## Heart Condition

- NYHA Class IV
- Discomfort with physical activity

### Supporting Indicators:

- Optimally treated with medications
- Hx of cardiac arrest
- Unexplained syncope

## Cancer

- No aggressive treatments available or being sought
- Patient showing decline

## Alzheimer's Disease

- Stage 7 or beyond on the FAST scale
- Unable to ambulate without assistance
- Unable to dress without assistance
- Unable to bathe without assistance
- Urinary and fecal incontinence, intermittent or constant
- Unable to express needs

### One of more of the following:

- Aspiration pneumonia
- Recurrent UTI
- Septicemia
- Stage 3-4 decubitus ulcers
- Recurrent fevers
- Weight loss

## Renal Disease

- No dialysis
- Creatinine clearance <10cc/min, 15cc/min in diabetics

### Supporting Indicators:

- Signs of uremia
- Intractable fluid overload
- Oliguria <400cc/24 hours

## Pulmonary/COPD

- Dyspnea at rest
- Poorly responsive to bronchodilators
- Decreased functional capacity
- Fatigue
- Recurrent infections
- Increasing ER visits
- Weight loss
- Resting heart rate >100
- Oxygen Dependent

## Liver Disease

- PTT >5 sec above control
- Serum albumin <2.5g/dl
- Ascites despite dietetics
- Peritonitis
- Hepatorenal syndrome
- Encephalopathy
- Recurrent vatical bleeding

### Supporting Indicators:

- Malnutrition
- Muscle Wasting
- Hepatitis C
- Active Alcoholism

## ALS

- Impaired breathing capacity
- Increased assistance in ADLs
- Decline in speech
- Progression from normal to pureed diet
- Progression from independent ambulation to wheelchair

### One or more of the following:

- Weight loss
- Aspiration pneumonia
- UTI
- Sepsis
- Recurrent fever
- Stage 3-4 decubitus ulcer

## CVA

- Karnofsky 40% or less
- Nutritional status decline
- Weight loss

### Supporting Indicators:

- Aspiration pneumonia
- UTI
- Sepsis
- Recurrent fever
- Stage 3-4 decubitus ulcer



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