

Hospice of Marion County
Guideline for Determining Neurological Disease other than CVA: ALS, MS, Huntington's, Parkinson's

The following criteria will support a prognosis of six months or less if the terminal illness runs its normal course for patients with Neurological Disease other than CVA.

Non-disease specific hospice baseline guidelines: (both 1 and 2 should be met)

- 1) **Physiologic impairment of function status** as demonstrated by Kamofsky Performance Status (KPS)or Palliative Performance Score (PPS) \leq 70% due to progression of disease
- 2) **Dependence** on assistance for **2 or more** activities of daily living (ADLs):

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feeding | <input type="checkbox"/> Ambulation | <input type="checkbox"/> Continence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer | <input type="checkbox"/> Bathing | <input type="checkbox"/> Dressing |

PLUS

Disease Specific Guidelines:

Criteria: Patients should¹:

- 1) Demonstrates **critically impaired breathing capacity** as demonstrated by **all** of the following characteristics occurring within the 12 months preceding initial hospice certification:
 - Vital capacity (VC) < 30% of normal, if available
 - Dyspnea at rest
 - Requiring supplemental O₂ at rest
 - Patient declines artificial ventilation & external ventilation used for comfort measures only
- 2) Demonstrates **both** rapid progression of Neurological Disease and critical nutritional impairment.
 - a) **Rapid progression of Neurological disease** as demonstrated by **all** the following characteristics occurring within the 12 months preceding initial hospice certification:
 - Progression from independent ambulation to wheelchair to bed bound status;
 - Progression from normal to barely intelligible or unintelligible speech;
 - Progression from normal to pureed diet;
 - Progression from independence in most or all areas of ADLs to needing assistance by caretaker in **all** ADLs.
 - b) **Critical nutritional impairment** as demonstrated by **all** the following characteristics occurring within the 12 months preceding initial hospice certification:
 - Oral intake of nutrients & fluids insufficient to sustain life;
 - Continuing weight loss;
 - Dehydration **or** Hypovolemia
 - Absence of artificial feeding methods, sufficient to sustain life, but not for relieving hunger
- 3) Demonstrates **both** rapid progression of Neurological Disease and life-threatening complications:
 - a) **Rapid progression** as demonstrated in 2a above.
 - b) **Life threatening complications** as demonstrated by **one** of the following characteristics occurring within the 12 months preceding initial hospice certification:

| | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recurrent aspiration pneumonia (with or without tube feedings) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sepsis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Upper UTI (e.g., pyelonephritis) | <input type="checkbox"/> Recurrent fever <u>after</u> antibiotic therapy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stage 3 or 4 decubitus ulcer(s) | |

Comorbidities: A diagnosis that is **not** the primary hospice diagnosis nor related to the primary hospice diagnosis, but the presence and severity of such disease is likely to contribute to a life expectancy of 6 months or less. Such diseases are **not** related to the hospice diagnosis and do **not** therefore imply financial responsibility under the hospice benefit.

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|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) | <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes Mellitus | <input type="checkbox"/> Renal failure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Congestive heart failure (CHF) | <input type="checkbox"/> Liver disease | <input type="checkbox"/> Neoplasia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ischemic heart disease | | <input type="checkbox"/> Dementia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) | | |

These determinants and indicators reflect the criteria sets established by the NHPCO Clinical Indicators (1996) and CAHABA (7/31/03) and are endorsed by Hospice of Marion County.

¹ The word "should" in the disease specific guidelines means that on medical review the guideline so identified will be given great weight in making coverage determination but does not mean, however, that meeting the guideline is obligatory.