

HospiceCare for Patients with End-Stage Neurodegenerative Disorders

HospiceCare is for all patients who are approaching the end of life, including those with neurodegenerative disorders. We'll help determine when your patients meet hospice requirements, and offer full multi-disciplinary team support if they enter our service. Our aim is to meet patients where they are; evaluating each in the context of diagnosis, symptoms and goals, and developing a care plan that addresses their particular needs. Consider a HospiceCare referral if your patient with neurologic disease (for example, dementia, Parkinson's disease or stroke) meets any of the following criteria:

- Karnofsky Performance Status or Palliative Performance Scale of 40% or less
- Unintentional weight loss over 10% in past 6 months or over 7.5% in past 3 months
- Serum albumin less than 2.5 gm/dl
- Aspiration pneumonia
- Dysphagia
- Significant co-morbidities*

*Often a patient with neurodegenerative disease will meet Medicare hospice criteria because of co-morbidities such as cardiac, pulmonary or renal disease. Admission criteria are not as straightforward as for other terminal diseases; however, our staff is highly knowledgeable about the latest Medicare hospice requirements. If you feel your patient has a life expectancy of 6 months or less, please call and let us help determine if hospice care is appropriate at this time.



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