



Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care

Criteria for Palliative Home Care and Hospice

Palliative Home Care – Patients are generally homebound and have skilled needs. Palliative home care is available while patient meets criteria.

Hospice – Patients need not be homebound and are reviewed for appropriateness at 90 days, then every 60 days. Physician confirms they have a terminal illness with expected survival 6 months or less.

Disease Process	Supportive/Palliative Care	Hospice
Cancer	Uncontrolled signs and symptoms due to cancer or treatment Increasing hospitalizations/ER	Metastatic or inoperable cancer No plans for treatment or scans Not on chemo meds or patient willing to pay for these or has supply to take
Heart Disease	Stage III-IV Heart Failure despite optimal medical management Angina refractory to medical or interventional management Frequent ER visits or hospitalizations	Heart Failure sx at rest Ejection fraction less than 20% New dysrhythmia Cardiac arrest or syncope Frequent ER visits or hospitalizations
Pulmonary Disease	Oxygen dependent, sats <88% RA Unintentional weight loss Dyspnea with minimal to moderate exertion Other pulmonary diseases, i.e. fibrosis pulmonary hypertension	Dyspnea at rest Signs or sx right heart failure Sats <88% PCO2 >50 Unintentional weight loss
Dementia	Behavioral problems increasing Feeding problems with weight loss Caregiver stress Frequency ED visits Safety concerns increasing Falls	Unable to walk, bathe or dress self Incontinence Less than six intelligible words Frequent ER visits Dysphasia
Liver Disease	Ascites Hepatic encephalopathy Safety concerns	INR >5 Albumin <2.5 Increasing ascites Jaundice Malnutrition
Renal Disease	Dialysis Stage IV or V chronic disease Comorbidities of other chronic disease, wounds, confusion	Not a candidate or refuses dialysis Serum creatinine >6.0
Neurologic Decline	Stroke, Parkinson's, ALS, MS, Post-Polio with loss of mobility Cognitive changes, feeding issues with weight loss	Frequent ER visits Decubitus ulcers Bedbound Dysphagia

We are available to help you guide a patient to the program that best meets their needs

Call us at 816.276.2700 for more information