

# When to Refer to Cedar Valley Hospice

Would you be surprised if someone you love or are caring for died within the next year? Or have they experienced some of the following symptoms? If so, they may be eligible for a hospice referral.

- Weight loss
- Small/decreased appetite
- Changes/increased assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs)
- Increased oxygen utilization
- Pain that is more difficult to control
- Increased hospitalizations or visits to ER
- Increased infections (upper respiratory, urinary tract, etc)
- Decline in mental status
- Increased weakness, fatigue, drowsiness
- Change in ambulation status

*Free consultations are available anytime by a Cedar Valley Hospice staff member.*

## Hospice Diagnoses/Eligibility Guidelines

*Some or all criteria listed may be present to qualify for hospice admission.*

*For more information, call Cedar Valley Hospice.*

### ■ Cancer

- Evidence of end-stage disease and/or metastasis
- No longer receiving curative treatment
- Anorexia with weight loss
- Requiring pain/symptom management with frequent interventions

### ■ Cardiac Disease

- Significant symptoms of recurrent CHF at rest, such as: dyspnea, increased confusion, nausea & vomiting, pruritis, restlessness, decreased urine output, edema and hyperkalemia
- Ejection fraction of 20% or less
- Persistent symptoms of CHF despite maximum medical treatment
- Requires considerable assistance and frequent medical care
- Increasing duration or frequency of arrhythmias, fainting spells or cardiac arrest

### ■ Cerebrovascular Disease (Stroke)

- Food/fluid intake insufficient to sustain life
- Dependent in activities of daily living
- Bed or chair bound
- Coma beyond three days duration



Cedar Valley  
Hospice

319.272.2202 :: [cvhospice.org](http://cvhospice.org) :: 800.617.1972

waterloo . independence . grundy center . waverly . hospice home

## **Dementia Due to Alzheimer's Disease & Related Disorders**

- Difficulty swallowing or refusal to eat
- Food intake insufficient to sustain life
- Refusing G-tube placement for nutritional purposes
- Severely compromised speech or communication
- Incontinent of urine and stool
- Dependent in activities of daily living
- Co-morbid conditions associated with dementia (*i.e. infections, decubitus ulcer*)
- Inability to ambulate without assistance

## **Liver Disease**

- Documentation of specific liver disease in history and physical
- Abnormal liver enzymes - alkaline, phosphate, SGOT and bilirubin
- Experiencing ascites, edema, itching, progressive malnutrition, spontaneous bacterial peritonitis, hepatorenal syndrome, recurrent variceal bleeding, hepatic encephalopathy
- Elevated prothrombin time more than five seconds over control, or INR greater than 1.5 and serum albumin less than 2.5 gm/dl
- Patients awaiting liver transplant may have Cedar Valley Hospice services

## **Pulmonary Disease**

- Dyspnea or tachypnea at rest (*change from prior level of function*)
- Orthopnea
- Progressive cough
- Oxygen dependent
- Hypercapnea - PCO<sub>2</sub> greater than or equal to 50 mmHG
- Cor Pulmonale related to advanced pulmonary disease documented by EKG, echocardiogram or chest x-ray
- Frequent hospitalizations or visits to ER
- Poor or minimal response to bronchodilators

## **Renal (Kidney) Disease**

- Discontinuing dialysis
- Creatinine clearance < 10 cc/min and serum creatinine > 8.0 mg/dl
- Chronic or acute illness that precipitated renal failure
- Food/fluid intake insufficient to sustain life
- Increasing edema
- Patients awaiting a renal transplant may have Cedar Valley Hospice services

## **Referring to Cedar Valley Hospice Ensures**

- Individual care for a loved one/patient/resident and family at home, nursing home, assisted living facility or hospital
- Admission to the Cedar Valley Hospice Home (as appropriate and available) for inpatient, respite or residential care needs
- Volunteer companionship
- Registered nurses on call 24/7/365
- Pain and symptom management
- Hospice aides to help with personal care, light housekeeping, respite
- Therapies such as massage and music available
- Spiritual and emotional support for patients/residents and caregivers of all faiths
- Assistance with wills, advance directives and end-of-life issues
- Grief and loss support for family and friends

**Call us with questions or referrals at (800) 617-1972. We are available 24/7.**