

When to Refer to Cedar Valley Hospice

Is it possible that someone you are caring for or love could die within the next year? Or have they experienced some of the following symptoms? If so, they are eligible for a hospice referral.

- Weight loss
- Small/decreased appetite
- Changes/increased assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs)
- Increased shortness of breath or 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 or patient is sleeping more
- Change in ambulation status

Free consultations are available anytime by Cedar Valley Hospice staff.

Hospice Diagnoses/Eligibility Guidelines

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

The presence of multiple diagnoses may support admission to hospice.

For more information or an admission evaluation, 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 (not required for eligibility)
- 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®**

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cvhospice.org

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■ **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, aspiration pneumonia*)
- Inability to ambulate without assistance

■ **Liver Disease**

- Documentation of specific liver disease in history and physical
- Abnormal liver enzymes - alkaline phosphatase, 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-tachypnea or tachycardia at rest (*change from prior level of function*)
- Orthopnea
- Progressive cough
- Oxygen dependent
- Hypercapnea - PCO₂ 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
(*if diabetic serum creatinine > 6.0 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

Revised 6/2018

Benefits of referring to Cedar Valley Hospice earlier

- Patient receives individualized care in their home, nursing home, assisted living facility or hospital – wherever they reside.
- Comprehensive pain and symptom management reduces unnecessary ER visits.
- Medication refills are handled by a hospice nurse, reducing the number of calls to the doctor's office.
- Admission to the Cedar Valley Hospice Home (as appropriate and available) for inpatient, respite or residential care needs.
- Complete access to a wide range of programs and services, including aides, social workers, spiritual care counselors, volunteer companionship services, adult/children grief counseling and 24-hour access to registered nurses.
- Assistance with wills, advance directives, IPOST and end-of-life issues.

Call us with questions or referrals at 800.626.2360. We are available 24/7.