



## Look and Listen for the Silent Transition

Be aware of the subtle progression a resident makes towards hospice eligibility before a crisis strikes.



If you observe any of the following, your resident may be beginning their silent transition from chronic illness to end of life:

- Increased hospitalizations over the past year
- Recent or progressive weight loss/gain
- Difficulty swallowing
- Changes in comprehension
- Requires more assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs)
- Increased incontinence
- Decrease in stamina
- Increased edema
- Increased shortness of breath with/without activity (oxygen dependency)
- Decrease in communication
- Increase in disorientation or confusion
- Withdrawal from family and friends
- Decrease in appetite
- Less likely to smile
- Taking nine or more daily medications
- Increased number of infections
- No longer making progress
- Increased number of wounds
- Wounds do not heal properly
- Physicians' office visits are missed

### Documentation to Validate Quality Indicators

If you have checked one or more of the symptoms listed above, your resident could be entering end of life and in need of hospice care. Elara Caring will assess your resident with hospice eligibility, enhancing their existing care with the following:

- Physician services and nurse practitioners
- Registered nurses
- Medical social workers
- Spiritual and bereavement counseling
- Nurse aides
- Hospice care programs