



Can you tell which of these people may be eligible for hospice benefits?



It is a common misconception that hospice is only appropriate when someone reaches a stage of extreme debilitation.

Referring to hospice as soon as the prognosis points to hospice readiness means that your patients with life-limiting illness (and their families) receive valuable benefits that can enhance day-to-day life.

Don't let **your** patients miss out on the added benefits of hospice support.

- Support for patient and family
- Physical and emotional comfort
- Care wherever they call home
- Symptom and pain management
- Counseling and respite services
- Focus on personal goals
- Minimal disruptions to normal activities
- Enhanced quality of life

What are the signs that a patient may be ready for hospice? →



Learn to look 6-months ahead for the signs that patients are clinically eligible for hospice.



The indications of hospice eligibility can be subtle and easily overlooked. It would be nice if there were a simple checklist that definitively pointed toward a 6-month prognosis, but prediction is often complex and layered.

Below are some factors to consider when evaluating if a patient may be clinically eligible for the added support of hospice. This is not an inclusive list, and the overlapping of these indicators, and other variables, collectively paint a unique “health portrait” which can affect prognosis.

- Failure to rehabilitate
- Needs more assistance with activities of daily living such as ambulation, transferring, dressing, bathing, feeding, toileting
- Unintentional weight loss or gain
- Decreased appetite or difficulty swallowing
- Multiple hospitalizations or ER visits
- Recurrent falls
- Recent hip fracture
- Recurrent infections
- New or worsening wounds
- New use of assistive device such as cane, walker or wheelchair
- New or worsening incontinence
- Decreased communication or change in socialization behavior
- Significant loss or life event such as death of a spouse
- Added complexity of cognitive impairment
- Requires a change in care setting
- Missed physician visits

Still not sure about a particular patient? **We can help.** Our nurses and physicians are equipped to look at a patient’s clinical and functional “portrait” to determine eligibility status.