

Qualifying Hospice Guidelines for Dementia



Note: This section is specific for Alzheimer's and Related disorders, and is not appropriate for other types of dementia.

1. Patients with dementia should have **all** of the following to qualify for hospice care:

- Unable to ambulate w/o assistance
- Unable to bathe w/o assistance
- No consistently meaningful verbal communication. Stereotypical phrases only or ≤ 6 intelligible words
- Unable to dress w/o assistance
- Urinary / fecal incontinence (intermittent or constant)
- FAST Score stage 7 (*Click here for FAST*)

2. Patients with dementia should have had **one** of the following within the past 12 months:

- Aspiration pneumonia
- Pyelonephritis
- Septicemia
- Multiple decubitus ulcers Stage 3-4
- Recurrent fever after antibiotics
- Inability to maintain sufficient calorie intake w/ 10% wt loss during previous 6 months or serum albumin < 2.5 gm/dl

Information obtained from: ngsmedicare.com/NGSMedicare/lcd/L25678_active_lcd.htm dated 6.5.09. This sheet is designed as a fact-finding tool to help determine prognosis as it relates to making a hospice referral. This sheet is not intended to be used to formulate diagnosis and does not confirm/rule out hospice qualification. If the patient meets the factors you may wish to make a referral to Hospice of Spokane. You may do so by calling 509.456.0438 or filling out the online referral form at <http://hospiceofspokane.org/admissions.html>.

121 South Arthur St. PO Box 2215 Spokane, WA 99210
Phone 509.456.0438 Toll-Free 888.459.0438 Fax 509.458.0359
TDD 509.458.6889 • info@hospiceofspokane.org • www.hospiceofspokane.org
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