



HOSPICE Guidelines



LIVER DISEASE

Guidelines for End-Stage Liver Disease and Related Disorders

THE PATIENT SHOULD MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Life limiting condition
- Pt/family elected palliative care
- Documentation of clinical progression of disease as evidenced by:
 - Serial physician assessment
 - Radiologic or other studies
 - Laboratory studies
 - Multiple Emergency Department visits
 - Inpatient hospitalizations
- Dependence of 3 of 6 Activities of Daily Living
 - Bathing
 - Dressing
 - Feeding
 - Transfers
 - Continence of urine and stool
 - Ambulation

PATIENT IS NOT A CANDIDATE FOR LIVER TRANSPLANTATION.

LABORATORY INDICATOR OF SEVERELY IMPAIRED LIVER FUNCTION SHOULD SHOW BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Prothrombin time prolonged more than 5 sec. over control
- Serum albumin less than 2.5 gm/dl

GENERAL INDICATORS:

- Ascites, persistent
- Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis
- Hepatorenal syndrome
- Hepatic encephalopathy, persistent
- Recurrent variceal bleeding

SUPPORTING FACTORS

Progressive malnutrition and/or muscle wasting; continued active alcoholism; hepatitis B infection; hepatitis C infection; refractory to treatment

Would you be surprised by this patient's death within the next six months?



Big Bend Hospice
1723 Mahan Center Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(850) 878.5310
www.bigbendhospice.org

24-HOUR ACCESS | 850.878.5310

REFERRALS/ADMISSIONS | 850.878.5310 | 800.772.5862 | 850.701.1340 | FAX 850.878.4483