



HOSPICE Guidelines



PULMONARY DISEASE

Guidelines for End-Stage Pulmonary Disease and Related Disorders

LIFE LIMITING CONDITION AS EVIDENCED BY THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS:

- Dyspnea at rest and on exertion
- Copious/purulent sputum
- Severe cough
- Oxygen dependent
- Recurrent infections

SIGNS:

- Cyanosis: blue lips, fingertips
- Pursed-lip breathing
- Retractions
- Wheezing
- Depressed diaphragm
- Increased visits to Emergency Department
- Increased hospitalization for pulmonary infections/respiratory failure
- Decrease in FEV₁ on serial testing of greater than 40 mL per year*
- Forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV₁) after bronchodilator, less than 30% of predicted*
- Presence of cor pulmonale or right heart failure due to lung disease evidenced by:
 - Echocardiographic documentation
 - Chest x-ray
 - Hypoxemic at rest on supplemental oxygen
 - Unintentional weight loss > 10% of body weight in past six months
 - Resting tachycardia (heart rate > 100 per minute)
- Pulmonary hyperinflation: barrel-chested
- Accessory muscles of respiration
- Increased expiratory phase: slowed forced expiration
- Diminished breath sounds
- Poor response to bronchodilators

* These tests are helpful evidence but should not be required if not readily available.

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



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