

# MEDICARE *guidelines*

## For Hospice Patients

*Because it is difficult to predict life expectancy at the end of life or during the course of a terminal illness, Medicare has established criteria to qualify non-cancer patients for hospice care. Benefits extend to those individuals that have a critical illness and a life expectancy of six months or less, assuming the illness runs its normal course.*



### HOSPICE DIAGNOSIS

#### **COPD**

- ◆ Shortness of breath and has been using oxygen or has O2 ready
- ◆ Frequent respiratory infections or bronchitis
- ◆ PO2 <55 or O2 sat <88 on supplemental oxygen

#### **CVA/Stroke**

- ◆ Must meet the criteria for dementia
- ◆ Serum albumin of 2.5 or weight loss of approximately 10% over 6 months

#### **Dementia/Alzheimer's**

- ◆ Requires assistance with activities of daily living (dressing, bathing, ambulating)
- ◆ Urinary and fecal incontinence, intermittent or constant
- ◆ Difficulty communicating (six intelligible words or less)
- ◆ One of the following complications in the last 12 months:
  - ◆ Aspiration Pneumonia
  - ◆ Chronic Fever
  - ◆ UTI
  - ◆ Weight Loss
  - ◆ Multiple Falls
  - ◆ Septicemia Injuries
  - ◆ Multiple Stage 3-4 Decubitus

#### **Heart Disease/CAD or CHF**

- ◆ Shortness of breath at rest or frequent chest pain
- ◆ Optimal treatment with diuretics and/or vasodilator

#### **Liver Disease**

- ◆ INR >1.5 or PT prolonged >5.0 seconds over control
- ◆ Serum Albumin <2.5
- ◆ One of the following:
  - ◆ Refractory Ascites
  - ◆ Malnutrition/Muscle Wasting
  - ◆ Hepatic Encephalopathy
  - ◆ Failure to Thrive

#### **Renal Failure**

- ◆ Not seeking dialysis treatment
- ◆ Serum creatinine >8.0 (>6.0 for diabetics)
- ◆ Creatinine of <10.0 cc/min

### **Your In-Home Hospice Care Experts**

\*Colorado Palliative & Hospice Care provides services without regard to race, color, national origin, disability, or age as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975.