

# Saint Anthony's Hospice

618-463-5636

## — Saint Anthony's Hospice Services —

Providing healthcare designed especially for terminally ill patients and their families.

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### The Right Time to Refer to Hospice:

**Patients are appropriate for hospice when the following conditions exist:**

- A terminal illness with a prognosis of six months or less of life remaining.
- A treatment plan with focus on comfort and quality of life.
- A terminal illness regardless of the diagnosis\*, with clinical progression of the disease.

*\*Medicare has created worksheets based on Local Coverage Determinations to assist in making appropriate Hospice referrals for the following illnesses: Heart Disease, Renal or Liver Disease, Stroke or Coma, Dementia or ALS.*

**Consider hospice for your patients who have reached the end stage of a chronic illness. Hospice provides:**

- A team approach for comfort and palliative care throughout the dying process, at time of death and during the bereavement phase.
- Twenty four hour on-call support.
- Dignity and quality in the later seasons of life.

### The following clinical indicators can serve as guidelines:

- Frequent Hospitalizations:** When an increase in frequencies between hospitalizations is evident; or hospitalizations are occurring 2 to 4 times in a 6 to 12 month time frame.
- Episodes of Health Care:** Recurring acute care hospital admissions; failure to respond to restorative care or therapy; or multiple Emergency Room, Physician Office, or Home Health visits.
- Specific organ failure** as demonstrated by lab values such as: Serum albumin of <2.5 gm/dl for liver failure, Creatinine clearance values <10ml/min (<15 ml/min for diabetics) for renal failure.
- Vital organ(s) non-functioning** as evidenced by radiologic/diagnostic studies
- Decline in functional status** with Kamofsky scores less than 50%. Dependence in 3-6 Activities of Daily Living.
- Impaired nutritional status;** unintentional and progressive weight loss of 10% over the past 6 months.

Contact Hospice by calling 618-463-5636 or via fax at 618-463-5492 for more information or to make a referral. We welcome the opportunity to serve you and your patients.



SAINT ANTHONY'S

HEALTH CENTER