

# When to Consider Hospice Care

We often hear families say "I wish I had called sooner". If you are unsure if you're loved one qualifies for hospice, simply give Emmanuel Hospice a call at **616.719.0919**. Our team will talk with you about your unique situation and answer any questions.

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## General Clinical Indicators

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|                                      |                                       |   |  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Recurring infections                 | Persistent nausea and/or vomiting     | Weakness  | Eating or drinking less                                  |
| Recent weight loss                   | Persistent diarrhea                   | Decline in level of consciousness   | Multiple ER visits, hospitalizations or physician visits |
| Abnormal lab values                  | Pain                                  | Need more assistance with everyday personal cares such as bathing, dressing, eating, continence |  |
| Difficulty swallowing                | Swelling in legs, arms, abdomen, face |   |  |
| Trouble breathing, even when resting |                                       |   |  |

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## Condition Specific Indicators

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### Dementia

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| Difficulty walking                            | Difficulty making it to the bathroom timely    | Pneumonia kidney infection, infection in blood, recurrent fever after antibiotics OR infection that doesn't get better with antibiotics |
| Needs more assistance bathing and/or dressing | No consistent, meaningful verbal communication |   |

### Heart Disease

|                                       |  |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Ejection fraction is low or declining | Unexplained syncope (fainting)             | Advanced cardiac disease |
| Arrhythmias                           | History of cardiac arrest or resuscitation |                          |

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## Condition Specific Indicators *(Continued)*

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### **Pulmonary Disease**

Increasing difficulty breathing

Increased doctor and/or hospital visits for respiratory issues

Oxygen dependent

Shortness of breath with activity

Breathing requires work and can be tiring

Chronic lung disease such as COPD

### **Neurological Disease**

Stroke/Coma, Parkinson's, Huntington's Chorea, ALS, MS, CVA

Getting out of bed less or not at all

Weight loss

Eating or drinking less

Reduced speech

Difficulty swallowing

Breathing requires work & can be tiring

Headaches, confusion, anxiety

### **Liver Disease**

Fluid build up, build up of toxins in the body

Kidney failure caused by cirrhosis of the liver

Progressive malnutrition, muscle wasting, reduced strength and endurance

### **End-Stage Kidney Disease**

Patient declines or discontinues dialysis or declines transplant

Accumulation of toxins in the blood

Abnormal labs

Fluid overload

### **Cancer**

A continued decline in spite of therapy or patient declines curative treatment