

WHEN IS HOSPICE CARE APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR PATIENTS?



HOSPICE

Identify signs and symptoms

In addition to meeting other disease specific criteria, patients who are appropriate for McLaren Hospice may have shown the following signs and symptoms in the past several months:

General guidelines

- Repeated trips to hospital/ER/physician.
- Lack of response to treatment.
- Pain, nausea, difficulty breathing, continued weight loss or other distressing symptoms.
- Decreased activity or decline in mobility.
- Decrease in cognitive ability.
- Pain that is poorly managed.
- Excessive sleeping throughout the day.

Psychosocial issues

- A recent change to do-not-resuscitate order.
- Patient/family desires comfort care.

Initiate the conversation

Conversations about hospice can be difficult. Hospice focuses on supporting patients and their families as they cope with life-limiting illness at home, in a nursing home or assisted living facility, or during a short-term hospital stay.

1. Define the patient's goals for care.
2. Summarize and link goals with care needs.
3. Acknowledge emotional response.

Refer to McLaren – we can help

McLaren Hospice representatives are always available to meet with your patients and their families to discuss the appropriateness of hospice care. Consultations can be arranged in your office or in a patient's home.

For more assistance in meeting your patients' needs as they make health care decisions, call McLaren Hospice toll-free at 866-323-5974.