

Palliative Care Service Referral Criteria

Merrimack Valley Hospice, Inc

Our Palliative Care Service is based on patient and family centered philosophy of care. Our mission is to improve the quality of life of our patients through symptom management, education, supportive services, and to reduce anxiety related to the physical and non-physical symptoms of a life-limiting diagnosis.

General Referral Criteria:

*Presence of an advancing life-limiting illness (See Below) and **one or more** of the following:*

- Pain or symptoms related to advancing diagnosis
- Need for treatment induced symptom control, patient/family support
- Declining ability to complete activities of daily living
- Two or more hospitalizations for illness within three months
- Weight Loss
- Difficult-to-control physical or emotional symptoms
- Patient, family or physician uncertainty regarding appropriateness of treatment options
- Advanced Care planning conflicts/Difficulty in identifying goals of care
- Conflicts regarding the use of non-oral feeding/hydration in cognitively impaired, seriously ill, or dying patients
- Patient, family or physician request for information regarding hospice appropriateness

Examples of Advancing Life-Limiting Illness:

Cancer (Metastatic/Recurrent)
Advanced COPD
End stage Renal Disease
End-stage Liver disease
Advanced Cardiac Disease/ CHF
Neurologic Disorders (ALS, MS, CVA)
Stroke with decreased function
Advancing Dementia

Services Provided:

Comprehensive Assessment by Nurse Practitioner
Complex pain/symptom assessment and management
Assistance with development of goals of care
Psychosocial assessment and referral for social worker
Communication with Primary Care Physician
Assistance with advanced care planning
Care coordination with Interdisciplinary team
Evaluation for admission to Hospice level of care when appropriate

Physician order required for Palliative Care Consult

To Make A Referral Call 1-800-333-4799 or 978-552-4444