

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)

The patient meets at least one of the following (1 or 2):

1. Severely impaired breathing capacity with all of the following findings:
 - Dyspnea at rest
 - Vital capacity less than 30%
 - Requirement for supplemental oxygen at rest
 - The patient declines invasive ventilation (NIPPV is accepted)
2. Rapid disease progression is evident, plus, either **a** or **b** below:

Rapid disease progression as evidenced by some of the following in the preceding twelve (12) months:

- Progression from independent ambulation to wheelchair or bed-bound status
- Progression from normal to barely intelligible or unintelligible speech
- Progression from normal to pureed diet
- Progression from independence in most or all Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) to needing major assistance by caregiver in all ADLs

PLUS

- a. Severe nutritional impairment demonstrated by all of the following in the preceding twelve (12) months:
 - Oral intake of nutrients and fluids insufficient to sustain life
 - Continuing weight loss
 - Dehydration or hypovolemia
 - Absence of artificial feeding methods

OR

- b. Life-threatening complications demonstrated by one or more of the following in the preceding twelve (12) months:
 - Recurrent aspiration pneumonia (with or without tube feeding)
 - Upper urinary tract infection (pyelonephritis)
 - Sepsis
 - Recurrent fever after antibiotic therapy
 - Stage 3 or Stage 4 decubitus ulcer(s)

In the absence of one or more of the above findings, rapid decline or co-morbidities may also support eligibility for hospice care.