

Liver Disease

The patient has both 1 **and** 2

1. Liver failure as demonstrated by a **or** b :
 - a. International Normalized Ratio (INR) >1.5 (not on warfarin)
 - b. Serum albumin <2.5gm/dl

AND

2. End-stage liver disease is present and the patient has one or more of the following conditions:
 - Ascites, refractory to treatment or patient declines or is non-compliant
 - History of spontaneous bacterial peritonitis
 - Hepatorenal syndrome (elevated creatinine with oliguria [<400 ml/day])
 - Hepatic encephalopathy, refractory to treatment or patient non-compliant
 - History of esophageal varices

Supporting evidence for hospice eligibility:

- Progressive malnutrition
- Muscle wasting with reduced strength
- Ongoing alcoholism (>80 gm ethanol/day)
- Hepatocellular carcinoma
- Hepatitis B surface antigen positive
- Hepatitis C, refractory to treatment

In the absence of one or more of these findings, rapid decline or comorbidities may also support eligibility for hospice care.