

Parkinson's Disease

The patient must meet at least one of the following criteria (1 **or** 2):

1. Severely impaired breathing capacity with all of the following findings:

- Dyspnea at rest
- Vital capacity less than 30%
- The requirement of supplemental oxygen at rest
- The patient declines artificial ventilation

OR

2. Rapid disease progression and either **a** or **b** below:

- 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 (ADL) to needing major assistance by caretaker in all ADLs
- Progression of Dementia (often Lewy-Body type), now FAST score 7A (**See Appendix 3**)

AND

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

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 feedings)
- Upper urinary tract infection (e.g. pyelonephritis)
- Sepsis
- Recurrent fever after antibiotic therapy
- Stage 3 or 4 decubitus ulcer(s)

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