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

   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.