

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.