# Mercy Hospice

*Dementia Due to Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders*

## Part I. Clinical Indicators

Stage 7 or beyond according to the FAST scale, show all of the following characteristics:

- Unable to ambulate without assistance
- Unable to dress without assistance
- Unable to bathe without assistance
- Urinary and fecal incontinence, intermittent or constant
- No consistently meaningful verbal communication

Should have had one of the following in the last 12 months:

- Aspiration Pneumonia
- Pyelonephritis or other upper urinary tract infection
- Septicemia
- Decubitus Ulcers, multiple, stage 3-4
- Fever, recurrent after antibiotics
- Inability to maintain sufficient fluid and calorie intake with 10% weight loss during previous 6 months or serum albumin <2.5gm/dl

## Part II. Non-disease specific baseline guidelines

- Hospital readmission with the same admitting diagnosis, 3 hospital admissions within 60 days or readmission within 72 hours of hospital discharge.
- Physiologic impairment of functional status as demonstrated by: Karnofsky Performance Status (KPS) or Palliative Performance Score (PCS) <70%.
- Dependence on assistance for two or more activities of daily living (ADLs): Feeding, Ambulation, Continence, Transfer, Bathing or Dressing
- Progressive stage 3-4 pressure ulcers in spite of optimal care

## Part III. Co-morbidities

Although not the primary hospice diagnosis, the presence of co-morbidities, the severity of which is likely to contribute to a life expectancy of six months or less, should be considered in determining hospice eligibility.

## For more information, please contact Mercy Hospice:


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