



# Hospice of Charleston

a Gentiva® company

## HOSPICE CENTER ADMISSION CRITERIA

**The following criteria are required for consideration for Hospice Center admission:**

1. The patient is eligible for Medicare, Medicaid or other insurance Hospice Benefit.
2. The patient or personal representative understands that the goals of care focus on physical, social, emotional or spiritual comfort.

**One or more of the following clinical criteria must be present for the patient to be considered appropriate for admission for general inpatient care:**

### **1. Pain:**

- \* Investigation to define appropriate treatment modality
- \* Active treatment to control pain including change in medications and/or routes of administration
- \* Titration of medications that cannot be done safely at home
- \* Need for advanced technology for analgesic administration

### **2. Other symptoms:**

- \* Death is imminent and care requires frequent skilled nursing intervention
- \* Palliative sedation when distressing symptoms cannot be relieved by other means
- \* Severe anorexia and/or inability to swallow necessitating alternative routes of medication administration
- \* Deteriorating mental status necessitating titration of medications
- \* Severe respiratory distress that is unmanageable in home setting
- \* Intractable nausea or vomiting
- \* Open skin lesions (decubitus ulcers, malignant ulcerations, fistulas) requiring professional care-- e.g. at least bid dressing changes
- \* Unstable or multiple pathological fractures
- \* Other complicated care for stable or unstable medical conditions: frequent suctioning, hemorrhage, severe anemia, recurrent seizures, rapidly re-accumulating ascites or pleural effusions, or to facilitate discontinuation of ineffective therapies (i.e. mechanical ventilation)

### **3. Psychosocial pathology:**

- \* Evaluation of hallucinations, delusions, paranoia, agitation with combativeness
- \* Extreme depression and anxiety
- \* Failure of support systems manifesting a need for evaluation and planning for a change in home care system
- \* Acutely unsafe home environment: neglect, abuse, inadequate resources to sustain necessities of existence e.g food, water, electricity

### **4. Respite:**

- \* used to relieve the patient's primary caregiver and family for a temporary basis up to five days and five nights