

**Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
Hospice Admission Criteria**

In end-stage ALS, two factors are critical in determining prognosis: ability to breathe & to a lesser extent, the ability to swallow.

Patients will be considered to be in the terminal stage of ALS if they meet the following criteria: (must fulfill 1,2,or 3)

- 1. The patient must demonstrate critically impaired breathing capacity.**
 - a. Critically impaired breathing capacity as demonstrated by all the following characteristics occurring within the 12 months preceding initial hospice certification:**
 - vital capacity less than 30% of normal**
 - significant dyspnea at rest**
 - requiring supplemental oxygen at rest**
 - patient declines artificial ventilation**
- 2. The patient must demonstrate both rapid progression of ALS and critical nutritional impairment.**
 - a. Rapid progression of ALS as demonstrated by all of the following characteristics occurring within the 12 months preceding initial hospice certification:**
 - progression from independent ambulation to wheelchair or bedbound status**
 - progression from normal to barely intelligible or unintelligible speech**
 - progression from normal to pureed diet**
 - progression from independence in most or all ADLs to needing major assistance by caretaker in all ADLs**
 - b. Critical nutritional impairment as demonstrated by all the following within the 12 months preceding initial hospice certification:**
 - oral intake of nutrients and fluids insufficient to sustain life**
 - continuing weight loss**
 - dehydration or hypovolemia**
 - absence of artificial feeding methods**
- 3. The patient must demonstrate both rapid progression of ALS and life-threatening complications:**
 - a. Rapid progression of ALS (see 2a above)**
 - b. Life-threatening complications as demonstrated by one of the following characteristics occurring within the 12 months preceding initial certification:**
 - recurrent aspiration pneumonia (with or without tube feedings)**
 - upper urinary tract infection, e.g., pyelonephritis**
 - sepsis**
 - recurrent fever after antibiotic therapy**

Other EOL co-morbidities