

**Hospice of the Shoals 767-6699**

**Liver Disease  
Hospice Admission Criteria**

**Patients will be considered to be in the terminal stage of liver disease if they meet the following criteria:**

- 1. The patient should show both a & b:**
  - a.) Prothrombin time prolonged > 5 seconds over control or INR > 1.5**
  - b.) Serum albumin < 2.5 gm/dl**
  
- 2. End Stage Liver Disease is present and the patient shows at least one of the following:**
  - ascites, refractory to treatment or patient non-compliant**
  - spontaneous bacterial peritonitis**
  - hepatorenal syndrome (elevated creatinine and BUN with oliguria (<400ml/day) and urine sodium concentration <10 meq/l)**
  - hepatic encephalopathy, refractory to treatment, or patient non-compliant**
  - recurrent variceal bleeding, despite intensive therapy**
  
- 3. Documentation of the following factors will support eligibility for hospice care:**
  - progressive malnutrition**
  - muscle wasting with reduced strength and endurance**
  - continued active alcoholism (> 80 gm ethanol/day)**
  - hepatocellular carcinoma**
  - Hepatitis B positivity**
  - Hepatitis C refractory to interferon treatment**

***\*Patients awaiting liver transplant who otherwise fit the above criteria may be certified for the Medicare Hospice Benefit, but if a donor organ is procured, the patient must be discharged from hospice.***

**ICD-9 Codes that support medical necessity:**

- 155.0 Malignant neoplasm of liver primary**
- 571.2 Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver**
- 571.40 Chronic hepatitis unspecified**
- 571.5 Cirrhosis of liver without alcohol**
- 572.2 Hepatic coma**

**Supporting other EOL co morbidities**

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