



ABC Hospice
INC.

A caring touch, a hand of compassion

www.abchospice.com

256.638.3491

866.847.8660

END-STAGE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive form of dementia that slowly destroys the victim's nerve cells in the brain. This disease leads to the impairment and eventually disturbances in reasoning, planning, language, and perception. Alzheimer's is a complex disease which mainly affects people over 50 . It is the most common type of dementia.

Being diagnosed with a terminal illness is devastating. ABC Hospice will take this journey with you.

The following criteria can be helpful in determining the eligibility of a patient to qualify for services offered through hospice. ABC Hospice is available to answer any questions you may have.

Patients will be considered to be in the terminal stage of Alzheimer's disease (life expectancy of six months or less) if they meet the following criteria:

The patient should show all the following characteristics:

- Stage seven or beyond according to the Functional Assessment Staging Scale
- Unable to ambulate without assistance
- Unable to dress without assistance
- Unable to bathe without assistance
- Urinary and fecal incontinence, intermittent or constant
- No meaningful verbal communication, stereotypical phrases only, or ability to speak is limited to six or fewer intelligible words

The patient must have had one of the following within the past 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 the previous six months or serum albumin < 2.5 gm/dl