



**ABC Hospice**  
INC.  
*A caring touch, a hand of compassion*

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## ADVANCED CANCER

Advanced cancer is cancer that has grown beyond the organ where it first started. Often it has spread widely throughout the body (called metastatic cancer). Advanced cancer is not always metastatic cancer, but sometimes cancer that has not spread is considered locally advanced if it is affecting a vital organ and can't be removed. For some people, the cancer may already be advanced when they first

learn they have the disease. Other people develop advanced cancer after years of treatment.

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 have advanced cancer (life expectancy of six months or less) if they meet the following criteria:

### ***The patient must meet the following criteria:***

- 1. Clinical findings of malignancy with widespread, aggressive, or progressive disease as evidenced by increasing symptoms, worsening lab values, and/or evidence of metastatic disease.***

#### ***The following information will be required:***

- Tissue diagnosis of malignancy
- Reasons why a tissue diagnosis is not available

- 2. Impaired performance status with a PPS < 70%***

- 3. Refuses further life-prolonging therapy OR continues to decline in spite of definitive therapy.***

#### ***Supporting documentation includes:***

- Hypercalcemia  $\geq 12$
- Cachexia or weight loss of 5% in the preceding three months
- Recurrent disease after surgery/radiation/chemotherapy
- Signs and symptoms of advanced disease (e.g. nausea, requirement for transfusions, malignant ascites or pleural effusion, etc.)

*In the absence of one or more of these findings, rapid decline or comorbidities may also support eligibility for hospice care.*