



**ABC Hospice**  
INC.

*A caring touch, a hand of compassion*  
[www.abchospice.com](http://www.abchospice.com)

256.638.3491  
866.847.8660

## HIV DISEASE

HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is the virus that causes AIDS. This virus is passed from one person to another through blood-to-blood and sexual contact. People with HIV have what is called HIV infection. Most of these people will develop AIDS as a result of their HIV infection.

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 their illness (life expectancy of six months or less) if they meet the following criteria. (1 and 2 should be present; factors from 3 will lend supporting documentation):

**1. CD4 + Count <25 cells/mcl - or - persistent (2 or more assays at least one month apart) viral load > 100,000 copies/ml, plus one of the following:**

- CNS lymphoma
- Untreated, or persistent despite treatment, wasting (loss of at least 10% lean body mass)
- Mycobacterium avium complex (MAC) bacteremia, untreated, unresponsive to treatment, or treatment failed
- Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy
- Systemic lymphoma, with advanced HIV disease and partial response to chemotherapy
- Visceral Kaposi's sarcoma unresponsive to therapy
- Renal failure in the absence of dialysis
- Cryptosporidium infection
- Toxoplasmosis, unresponsive to therapy

**2. Decreased performance status, as measured by the Karnofsky Performance Status (KPS) scale, of 50%.**

**3. Documentation of the following factors may provide additional support for hospice care:**

- Chronic diarrhea for one year
- Congestive heart failure, symptomatic at rest
- Concomitant active substance abuse Age > 50
- Absence of antiretroviral, chemotherapeutic and prophylactic drug therapy related specifically to HIV disease
- Persistent serum albumin <2.5
- Toxoplasmosis
- Advanced AIDS dementia complex

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