



ABC Hospice
INC.

A caring touch, a hand of compassion

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NEUROLOGICAL DISEASE

A neurological disorder involves the nervous system, and can be caused by either a disease, such as multiple sclerosis, or a trauma or injury to the nervous system. Neurological disorders can be remarkably difficult to treat and are often debilitating.

Neurological disorders can include the slow loss of coordination, balance, or ability to speak clearly. Often symptoms start with a mild and intermittent twitching or numbness in one extremity. Tremors, rigid muscles,

slowed motion, difficulty swallowing, loss of automatic movements such as blinking, swinging the arms, and unconscious acts, and eventually 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.

Muscular Dystrophy, Myasthenia Gravis, and Multiple Sclerosis are examples of diseases that fit under this category. Presence of the following medical findings support the terminal prognosis for Neurological Disease:

The patient must meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. Critically impaired breathing capacity with all of the following findings:

- Dyspnea at rest
- Vital capacity of less than 30%
- Requirement for supplemental oxygen at rest
- The patient declines artificial ventilation

- or -

2. Rapid disease progression with either A or B below:

- Progression from independent ambulation to wheelchair or bed-bound status
- Progression from normal to barely intelligible or unintelligible speech
- Progression from normal to pureed diet
- Progression from independence in most or all activities of daily living (ADLs) to needing major assistance by caretaker in all ADLs

- and -

A. Critical nutritional impairment demonstrated by ALL of the following in the preceding twelve (12) months:

- Oral intake of nutrients and fluids insufficient to sustain life
- Continuing weight loss
- Dehydration or hypovolemia
- Absence of artificial feeding methods

- or -

B. Life-threatening complications demonstrated by one or more of the following in the preceding twelve (12) months:

- Recurrent aspiration pneumonia (with or without tube feedings)
- Upper urinary tract infection (pyelonephritis)
- Sepsis
- Recurrent fever after antibiotic therapy
- Stage 3 or Stage 4 pressure ulcer(s)