

# Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)

The patient meets at least one of the following (1 or 2):

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

- Dyspnea at rest
- Vital capacity 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: Rapid disease progression as evidenced by all of the following in the preceding 12 months:

- 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 (ADL) to needing major assistance by caretaker in all ADL

**a.** Severe nutritional impairment demonstrated by all of the following in the preceding 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 12 months:

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

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