

Huntington's Disease

The patient has both 1 and 2:

- 1.** Stage 7 or beyond according to the Functional Assessment Staging Scale with all of the following:*

 - Inability to ambulate without assistance
 - Inability to dress without assistance
 - Urinary and fecal incontinence, intermittent or constant
 - No consistent meaningful verbal communication

AND

- 2.** Has had at least one of the following conditions within the past 12 months:
 - Aspiration pneumonia
 - Pyelonephritis or other upper urinary tract infection
 - Septicemia
 - Multiple Stage 3 or Stage 4 pressure ulcers
 - Toxoplasmosis unresponsive to therapy
 - Fever, recurrent after antibiotics
 - Inability to maintain sufficient fluid and caloric intake with one or more of the following during the preceding 12 months:
 - a.** 10% weight loss during the previous six months
- OR**
- b.** Serum albumin <2.5 gm/dl
- OR**
- c.** Significant dysphagia with associated aspiration measured objectively, e.g., swallowing test or a history of choking or gagging with feeding

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

*See Appendix 3 for Functional Assessment Staging