

Parkinson's Disease

The patient must meet the following criteria:

Rapid disease progression and 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 (ADL) to needing major assistance by caretaker in all ADL

AND

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

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 feedings)
- Upper urinary tract infections, e.g., Pyelonephritis
- Sepsis
- Recurrent fever after antibiotic therapy
- Stage 3 or Stage 4 pressure ulcer(s)

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