

Cancer

The patient has 1, 2 and 3:

1. Clinical findings of malignancy with widespread, aggressive or progressive disease as evidenced by increasing symptoms, worsening lab values and/or evidence of metastatic disease
2. Impaired performance status with a Palliative Performance Score (PPS) <70%*
3. Refuses further curative therapy or continues to decline despite definitive therapy. Decline is evidenced by:
 - Hypercalcemia ≥ 12
 - Cachexia or weight loss of 5% in the preceding three months
 - Recurrent disease after surgery/radiation/chemotherapy
 - Signs and symptoms of advanced disease, e.g., nausea, anemia, malignant ascites or pleural effusion, etc.

The following information will be required:

1. Tissue diagnosis of malignancy
- OR*
2. Reason(s) why a tissue diagnosis is not available

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

Concurrent therapy:

Agrace may accept a patient for hospice while the patient continues to receive treatment (such as chemotherapy), under circumstances such as to meet a time-bound goal or for symptom management. ***Please call Agrace to discuss patients who may need concurrent therapy.***

*See Appendix 2 for Palliative Performance Scale