

# Liver Disease

The patient has both 1 and 2:

**1.** Synthetic liver failure as demonstrated by **a** or **b** and **c**:

**a.** Prothrombin time (PTT) prolonged more than five seconds over control

*OR*

**b.** International Normalized Ratio (INR) >1.5

*AND*

**c.** Serum albumin <2.5 gm/dl

*AND*

**2.** End-stage liver disease is present and the patient has one or more of the following conditions:

- Ascites, refractory to treatment, or patient declines or is non-compliant
- History of spontaneous bacterial peritonitis
- Hepatorenal syndrome (elevated creatinine with oliguria [ $<400$  ml/day])
- Hepatic encephalopathy, refractory to treatment or patient non-compliant
- History of recurrent variceal bleeding despite intensive therapy or patient declines therapy

**Supporting evidence for hospice eligibility:**

- Progressive malnutrition
- Muscle wasting with reduced strength
- Ongoing alcoholism ( $>80$  gm ethanol/day)
- Hepatocellular carcinoma
- Hepatitis B surface antigen positive
- Hepatitis C refractory to interferon treatment

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