

# 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 twelve (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 (ADLs) to needing major assistance by caretaker in all ADLs
- a.** Severe nutritional impairment demonstrated by all of the following in the preceding twelve (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 twelve (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 decubitus ulcer(s)