

Liver Disease

The patient has both 1 and 2:

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

- Prothrombin time (PTT) prolonged more than five (5) seconds over control

OR

- International Normalized Ratio (INR) >1.5

AND

- Serum albumin <2.5gm/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 [<400ml/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 (>80gm ethanol/day)
- Hepatocellular carcinoma
- Hepatitis B surface antigen positive
- Hepatitis C refractory to interferon treatment