

End-Stage Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)

All patients must meet criteria #1 as well as either 2A, 2B, or 2C

1. Rapid progression of ALS. Most of disability should have developed in past 12 months. Examples:
 - progression from independent ambulation to wheelchair or bed-bound
 - progression from normal to barely-intelligible/unintelligible speech
 - progression from normal to blenderized diet

2. At least one of the following must also apply:
 - A. Critically impaired ventilatory capacity
 - vital capacity < 30% of predicted;
 - significant dyspnea @ rest
 - supplemental O₂ required at rest
 - intubation or tracheostomy and mechanical ventilation considered

 - B. Critical nutritional impairment
 - May have feeding tube
 - Oral intake insufficient
 - Continued weight loss
 - Dehydration or hypovolemia

 - C. Life-threatening complications
 - Recurrent aspiration pneumonia
 - Decubitus ulcers, multiple, stage 3-4, particularly if infected
 - Upper UTI, e.g. pyelonephritis
 - Sepsis
 - fever recurrent after antibiotics