

End-Stage Liver Disease

Numbers 1 and 2 must be present; factors from number 3 will lend supporting documentation

1. The patient should show both a and b:
 - a. Prothrombin time prolonged more than 5 seconds over control, or International Normalized Ratio (INR) > 1.5
 - b. Serum albumin <2.5

2. End-stage liver disease is present and the patient shows at least one of the following:
 - a. Ascites, refractory to treatment or patient non-compliant
 - b. Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis
 - c. Hepatorenal syndrome (elevated creatinine and BUN with oliguria (< 400 ml/day) and urine sodium concentration < 10mEq
 - d. Hepatic encephalopathy, refractory to treatment or patient non-compliant
 - e. Recurrent variceal bleeding, despite intensive therapy

3. Documentation of the following factors will support eligibility for hospice care:
 - a. Progressive malnutrition
 - b. Muscle wasting with reduced strength and endurance
 - c. Continued active alcoholism
 - d. Hepatocellular carcinoma
 - e. Hepatitis B positive
 - f. Hepatitis C refractory to interferon treatment