

## If you have a patient with Chronic Kidney Disease, they may be eligible for hospice.

Chronic kidney disease, also called chronic kidney failure, describes the gradual loss of kidney function. The kidneys filter waste and excess fluids from your blood, which are then excreted in your urine. When chronic kidney disease reaches an advanced stage, dangerous levels of fluid, electrolytes and waste can build up in your body.

- Itching
- Muscle Cramps and twitching
- Feeling sick and vomiting
- Loss of appetite
- Edema in hands/feet
- Urinating more or less than normal
- Trouble breathing
- Trouble sleeping
- Confusion
- Fatigue/Weakness
- Pain in lower back area
- Bad breath, metallic taste in mouth
- Rash

## Chronic Kidney Disease

The patient has 1 and either 2, 3 or 4.

1. The patient is not seeking dialysis or transplant  
**AND**
2. Creatinine clearance <10cc/min (<15cc/min for diabetics)  
**OR**
3. Serum creatinine >8.0mg/dl (>6.0mg/dl for diabetics)  
**OR**
4. Estimated glomerular filtration rate (GFR) <10 ml/min.

### Supporting evidence for hospice eligibility:

- Uremia
- Oliguria (urine output < 400ml/24hrs)
- Intractable hyperkalemia (>7.0) not responsive to treatment
- Uremic Pericarditis
- Hepatorenal Syndrome
- Immunosuppression/AIDS
- Intractable fluid overload, not responsive to treatment

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

### Supporting Factors

- Mechanical Ventilation
- Malignancy (other organ)
- Chronic Lung Disease
- Advanced Cardiac Disease
- Advanced Liver Disease
- Immunosuppression/AIDS
- Albumin >3.5gm/dl
- Platelet count <25,000
- Disseminated intravascular coagulation
- Gastrointestinal Bleeding

### Secondary (First Pertinate) Conditions:

- Anorexia
- Calciphylaxis
- Electrolyte Abnormalities
- Fluid Overload
- Hyperkalemia
- Nephrogenic systemic fibrosis
- Secondary Hypoparathyroidism

### Comorbid Conditions:

- Chest Pain
- DM type 1 or 2
- CAD
- Dyspnea
- Narrowing of coronary arteries
- Orthopnea
- PVD
- Vascular Dementia

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